

L.T.-SUNOCO. - Monday, April 20, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight we are still getting all our information from the enemy about that raid on Tokyo and other Japanese cities. It's a paradoxical situation such as could only occur in this war, as weird as it is colossal.

On second thought I ought to qualify that word "information." We do have reports from Tokyo, several reports but no two of them are the same; so we don't really know which is information and which is misinformation. The latest that emanates from the ~~Xixkxix~~ Mikado's capital is that three of Uncle Sam's aircraft carriers were the base for that bomb-dropping foray on Tokyo, Yokohama, Kobe and Nagoya. But the Tokyo radio slipped up on one point. It declared that the

aircraft employed were three B-twenty-fives. ~~The~~ ^{Now}

^{the}
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B-twenty-five is an army bomber, and navy experts

declare it would be too heavy to be used off an

aircraft carrier. But, that may be set down as a

minor error. Evidently, the planes that raided ^{those} four

^{great}
^
cities of the Mikado's empire, were medium bombers.

A previous Tokyo report had it that no fewer than sixty of our planes took part in the raid.

Sixty out of which many were shot down. The latest

broadcast places the number of raiding planes at only

ten, and reports that none of them were shot down

but that they apparently escaped to ~~xx~~ bases in China.

All the while, not a word from our own high
command. ^{And} [^] it is quite natural that strategic reasons

^{on our people}
would impose a silence [^] for the time being.

However, we may take it as quite definite that

four cities in Japan were raided, that the damage was considerable, and that the consternation on the part of the Japanese was even more. For it resulted in a shake-up of the Japanese home command. The officer in charge of home defense was fired out of his job and sent to the front, replaced by another general. And, there was a shift of general officers all along the line.

One paragraph in the conflicting reports from Tokyo indicates that some of the bombs dropped

not far from the imperial palace. Maybe that gave the Mikado and his wife — Charlie and Emma their first inkling that there is a

TP Perhaps I should explain that it state of war. ~~It~~ is unlawful in Japan to mention the

Mikado and the Empress by name, so the American

correspondents in the Japanese capital used to call

them "Charlie" and "Emma." TP Of course it is no secret

that the Emperor and Empress are actually the prisoners

of the Japanese high command, ~~xxxx~~ and there's even a

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story that "Charlie" has not yet been informed that a war is going on. So perhaps those American bombs caused him to ask questions.

Whatever the actual damage caused by our planes, we shall not know until ^{our} ~~the~~ high command deems it militarily wise to publish the whole truth. But there is one truth that our side does not need to make public because the enemy has revealed it himself, and that is that the raid has given the Japanese high command on the home front a ^{large sized} ~~good~~ attack of nerves. ~~We can't be~~
~~sorry about that.~~

BURMA

Tonight's news from Burma talks of better cooperation between the Chinese and the British on that critical front. The report doesn't come any too soon. There have been complaints in Chungking, the Chinese capital, that the Japanese ~~drive~~^{advance} in Burma was due at least in part to ^a split command, the Chinese being led by American Lieutenant General Stilwell, and the British by their own General, Alexander. The result, said observers at Chungking, was that Chinese and British forces would start withdrawals independently, thus leaving unprotected flanks.

So it is welcome news that Chinese troops have been helped by British armored units, and thus recaptured the key town of Yenang-Yuang, in the Burma oilfields. Furthermore, they were able to deliver a fierce counter-attack on another Japanese column on the

riverfront. On the Salween River sector, the Japanese were heavily reinforced and launched a heavy attack, but it was driven back.

The recapture of Yenang-Yuang is the first notable success achieved by the United Nations. In this case a British army had been trapped in the oilfields, and Chinese troops were hurried to the scene of fighting to rescue them. They arrived in time to save several thousand British, and they charged with such impetus as to drive the Japanese out of the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{town}

We learn ~~also~~ ^{that}, in spite of the closing of the Burma Road, supplies have been ~~sent~~ ^{flowing} in a constant stream to Chiang Kai-shek. ^{in India} The supply chief of the Chinese

forces ~~in India~~ ^S reported ~~ed~~ that large quantities of American supplies are arriving all the time at ports on the west coast of India ^{to be} ~~and~~ ^{on} shipped by rail ~~into~~

China ^{by way of} ~~through~~ ^A northeast ~~India~~ ^{— Assam.} ^A fifty thousand

Chinese workmen, formerly employed on the railway from Lashio to Kungming, are now building new overland routes into China.

One interesting bit of news from the Burmese front concerns a wedding. ~~Yes~~ ^{For} love will find a way, even

under Japanese bombs. An American volunteer fighter, *one of those redoubtable* Flying Tigers, fell in love with a British gal.

— under a tropic moon,
They had met at Rangoon, and were to have been married *by the golden Schwe Dagon Pagoda,* there. But the wedding was interrupted by the arrival

of the Japanese. The groom had to go to his duties as a pilot, the bride escaped from the burning capital and made her way to a base in northern Burma. When her husband finally joined her there, they thought it was a fine opportunity for that interrupted wedding. But

lo and behold, there was nobody at that base qualified *no preacher, no magistrate. So* to perform a marriage ceremony. What did they do?

They settled it American fashion. The Flying Tigers

got together and elected a mayor, the Mayor of Loiwing. Half an hour after his election, and the Mayor of Leiwing married the Flying Tiger to his British bride while planes roared overhead in a nuptial salute, and that night there was a party in far off Burma on the Road to Mandalay, where the flying fishes play, a party in honor of the bride and the Flying Tiger - whose name is not given - but it probably is Joe. And her name, since she is British, is not Supyalot, the same as Thebaw's queen.

AUSTRALIA

There was an important conference in Australia today between Prime Minister John Curtin and General Douglas MacArthur. It was a conference of war strategy, which lasted two hours. The result was announced by the Australian Premier, who said, "General MacArthur and I are in complete agreement on general strategy for knocking out Japan by a concentration of our strength rather than a dispersal", and the Australian Premier added that "Our conceptions for the whole global strategy are identical." ^{IP} Now that MacArthur has formally assumed supreme command on the Pacific battlefield, he will issue all the news about the progress of the war in the southwest Pacific.

Today's report brings word that several heavy Japanese bombers and four Japanese navy Zero fighters were caught on the ground by an American and Australian raid over Rabaul ^{in New Britain.} They were destroyed, and ~~two~~ ^{other} ~~of~~

fighters were damaged. The Australian Air Minister announced that Australian pilots are now flying

American Kitty Hawk planes. That puts them more on a level with the Japanese. Hitherto the Australians were obliged to go into action with aircraft slower than those of the enemy, hence more vulnerable.

FRANCE

Pierre Laval, Premier of France, will deliver a broadcast shortly, addressed to the United States. This became known after his short radio speech to his own countrymen today. There is no explanation of his plan to aim a broadcast at our ears, except the presumption that Hitler's Premier ^{of France} ~~of France~~ has not been informed that he is about as popular in the

United States as he is in his own country. And that popularity ^{was illustrated when he recovered from} ~~may be gaged by the fact that his recovery~~ and no cheers were heard anywhere, from his bullet wounds ~~was hailed with regret.~~ ^{except perhaps in Germany.}

Laval's broadcast to the French people was a typical Nazi performance. The gist of it was that France must go Nazi if it wishes to escape Bolshevism. He asked these rhetorical questions:- "Do you believe that if the Soviets conquer Germany, the Red army would halt at our frontiers?" And his second question was:- "Would you tolerate that, with England's consent,

the Soviets should impose a regime of mechanism on our workers and eliminate our elite?"

His remarks about the "elite" were here considered a trifling puzzling at first. It is generally accepted that the elite of France were either killed or exiled when the Germans conquered the country. The explanation is that what Laval means by the "elite" is the rich, the two hundred ^{odd} families who own most of the property, the banks and industries.

Taboue
Genevieve Tabouis, the celebrated French journalist, relates in her book, "They Called Me Cassandra", that many of those two hundred families, the old French aristocracy and the new French plutocracy, ~~were~~ *have been* pro-Nazi for years and welcomed the conquest by Hitler.

Laval's remark about the mechanization of French workers provoked the reflection that most French workers are now doing forced labor for Hitler. The

pretense that Hitlerism is to save the world from Bolshevism is a typical Nazi argument.

Laval went on to declare that, no matter what anybody else may say, he is going to take France into complete reconciliation with Germany, complete and loyal participation in Adolf Hitler's new order, which will be installed everywhere.

Then he uttered a word of defiance to foreign influences, mentioning specifically Great Britain. He most pointedly made no mention whatever of the United States.

While Laval was broadcasting, the Soviet radio at Moscow was reporting that Nazi naval experts were at Marseilles, preparing to take over the French battleship DUNQUERQUE of twenty-six thousand tons, and a ten thousand ton heavy cruiser. Stockholm also reported that Laval was getting ready to turn

over the entire French fleet to Hitler, in spite of
Petain's declaration that Admiral Darlan still was
commander of the French armed forces.

MacLEISH

Hitler is going to offer peace during the coming summer, says Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress and Director of the Office of Facts and Figures. It will be a propaganda peace offensive, propaganda aimed at the dormant peace parties in some of the democratic countries. MacLeish told this to a gathering of American editors and publishers at the Associated Press Luncheon at the Waldorf in New York today. He told it there because, he said, it is up to the American press to fight this propaganda attack.

NORMANDIE

Here's the second report on the burning of the NORMANDIE. This one comes from the Navy, the Naval Court which ^{investigated} ~~inquired into~~ the disaster. It lays the blame on employees of the Robins Drydock and Repair Company, which ^{had the contract for} ~~was charged with~~ converting ^{that} ~~the~~ luxury liner NORMANDIE into the United States transport LAFAYETTE. The Naval Court uses the words - "gross carelessness and utter violation of rules of common sense on the part of the ^K ~~women~~ of the Robins Company." It also states that two naval officers failed to carry out their duties, though they were not to blame for the fire itself. One sour part of this report is ^{the} ~~that it~~ ^{revelation} ~~reveals~~ that the Company is not liable for more than three hundred thousand dollars' damages, three hundred thousand dollars on a ship that cost sixty million dollars to build!

Secretary Knox announces that the Navy will

not discipline the two naval officers who failed to carry out their duties, though it will count against them the next time they come up for promotion.

MANPOWER

American workers are not going to be seized by the neck and sent off to work at jobs they do not choose. That is, not now. Paul McNutt, Chairman of the new manpower commission, will at least start on a voluntary democratic basis. If that doesn't work, then he'll ask the President and Congress for authority to draft both men and women. But, for the time being, there will be a system of priorities ^{the same} x for labor, ~~as~~ ^{as} for materials.

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One of the problems with which the Commission will deal, says McNutt, is the practice of certain factory managements in pirating workers from each other. Some factories are also facing a serious ^a _^ dearth of skilled workers. And McNutt said:- "It is absolutely foolish for one essential industry to take skilled workers from another. Workers," he added, "must be hired through an orderly process guaranteeing that the

{ most urgent job shall have the first call on *the*
labor supply. "

LABOR

A vehement protest was made today against recent decisions of the National War Labor Board, decisions which force workers to join unions whether they want to or not. The protest was addressed to Congress by the National Association of Manufacturers. ^{TP} "With the country at war," says the N.A.M., "surely this is no time for experiment. ^{TP} The statement by the N.A.M. includes these words:- "Industry has a duty to tell the public and Congress that it cannot be blamed for delays which occur from the imposition of the closed shop or by long drawn out delays while government tries to build a National Labor Relations policy, company by company, day by day, and month by month. ^{TP} "What we need," say the Manufacturers, "is an immediate and clear-cut policy, and that could be established by an Act of Congress freezing labor relationships as they are of today."

An appeal was uttered today to members of the Republican Party, an appeal that used the words, "Republicans must not fight each other." The author, [?] - Congressman Joe Martin, Chairman of the National Committee. ~~He let it be known that~~ This ^{was} ~~is to be~~ his keynote in opening the first session of the Committee at Chicago. ^{He began} ~~He opened~~ his remarks as Chairman with a pledge of support to ^{the} President; ~~Roosevelt;~~ full support and cooperation of Republicans in the war effort. And he added:- "We will sacrifice political opportunities for unity and the furtherance of the war." At the same time, said ^{JOE} Martin, "We are determined that this great body shall live as a defender of ~~genuine~~ genuine Americanism." And further, he said there never was a greater need for the Republican Party than in this critical hour.

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The Republican Chairman went on to say some

interesting things about the campaign this year. It will be different, he judges, from other campaigns, not much ballyhoo, but plenty of solid, quiet work by good organization. ^R From city by-elections in various parts of the country, and city elections, he thinks the trend of the voters this year is distinctly Republican, but, he added cautiously, "no one can tell what November will bring forth."

8/2 Despite Chairman Martin's appeal for harmony, the work of the session began with ^a protest by the followers of Wendell Willkie. The ex-candidate wants the Party to throw isolation completely overboard here and now. On the other side, Senator Taft of Ohio, who was an out-and-out isolationist before the attack on Pearl Harbor, wants all such questions dropped until the war is over. Chairman Martin appointed a sub-committee to consider these resolutions, and the Wendell Willkie followers were miffed because only two of them are on that Committee. ^{now Hush}