

Good Evening, Everybody:

The fall of Singapore is only a matter of hours. Even London puts it at from twenty-four to forty-eight hours. In Singapore itself, some who are right on the scene of action believe that the fate of the great British -Malayan port at the crossroads of Asia and the Indies may be settled by noon Wednesday, which would mean midnight tonight, Eastern War Time, here on the East Coast of America.

Since early this morning the Singapore radio has been silent, meaning it either has been knocked out by aerial bombardment, or that the station already is in the hands of the Japanese.

Through the guarded haze of censorship, we hear that the Japanese are advancing on the heart of Singapore -- that is, the city itself -- from the

North and from the West. The bridgehead they established just west of the Johore causeway was consolidated and enlarged. They themselves claim through the Tokyo radio that their engineers actually repaired that causeway over Johore Straits which the British had blown up. The British made no reply to that. In fact, they admit that enemy troops have been across from the mainland.

The manager of the United Press Bureau at Singapore cables that he has paid his last visit to the front, where he watched British troops crouching in ditches while huge flights of Japanese planes dive-bombed them and machine-gunned them -- at leisure. And he adds: "Japanese planes are making life hell for the Singapore defenders."

There is no mention whatever of any resistance by the Royal Air Force. Even the newspapers in Singapore have given up hope and admit frankly that there seems to be no likelihood of the Japanese

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being hurled back off the island. One account tells of the British putting up gun emplacements in the suburbs of the city.

Early this afternoon, the Japanese claimed to be within eight miles of the Number One Malayan city. Apparently near the village of Panjang, on the railroad. The British command admitted ~~xx~~ that at points the Japs were within ten miles.

Correspondents radio us that there is plenty of kick left in the British troops, and, that they are making the Japanese pay dearly for every foot of the way. Which is some consolation -- but not much.

INDIES

Looking further south in the East, the Japanese campaign for Java proceeds, ~~pace,~~ methodically, inexorably, but alas we cannot say "slowly." Even to the common eye, ~~The strategy of the Japanese is obvious.~~ ^{seems} Their most important stroke today was a fresh landing on the southwest coast of the island of Celebes.

~~That's~~ In preparation for a fresh ~~attack at the~~ ^{try for the} important port of Makassar. The Dutch have been doing their gallant all in a delaying action, but they are prodigiously outnumbered.

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Another Japanese move, whose ultimate goal is Java, is an advance down the east coast of Borneo, towards Bandjermasin. There again the best that the out-numbered Hollanders can do is a delaying action. Enemy airplanes are reported ~~over Tjepoe,~~ ^{the} ~~the center~~ ^{heart} of the oil industry in eastern Java, and also over northern Sumatra. In short, everything points to the

conclusion that the forces of Nippon are girding
themselves for ^a~~the~~ final all-out attack on Java,
the heart of the Netherlands East Indies Empire.

HAWAII

Here's news which appears to indicate that another Japanese attack is expected on Hawaii. Guy L. Swope, Director of the Division of Territories and Island Possessions in the Department of the Interior, makes the announcement in Washington that women and children are being urged to leave Hawaii. Gas masks are being distributed to everybody in the islands.

^{TP} Swope has just returned from a fifteen day visit out there and he reports that there's no hysteria, ~~no hasty thinking~~, ^{that there is} no panic. Also plenty of food and clothing. ^{are being} ~~should~~ Nevertheless, women and children ^{are being} urged to leave.

ARMY COMMUNIQUE

For the most part, there's a grim tone to the Army Communique of this day. It speaks of the weariness of General MacArthur's troops and the heavy odds against them. The General has reported that there are five Japanese divisions, veteran shock troops, pitted against the small band under his command on the Batan Peninsula. That means the Americans and Filipinos have to face at least seventy-five thousand of the enemy, who can be constantly reinforced by fresh untired troops, whereas there is no rest or ~~of~~ relief for our own men.

The only silver lining to that cloud is that seven enemy planes have been shot down. That means a hundred and sixty-three Japanese aircraft destroyed in that part of the world since the beginning of the war.

ADD ARMY COMMUNIQUE

General MacArthur's men made a counter-attack against the Japanese in Batan. That's the gist of the evening communique from the War Department. In so doing, his hard pressed little army succeeded in clearing up and disposing of Japanese units which had filtered through his lines on the left flank.

AUSTRALIA

Still further east, the enemy is developing another methodical, deliberate campaign aimed at northern Australia. An invading expedition has been landed at a place called Gasmata on the southern shore of the island of New Britain. ^{Putting} ~~That puts~~ them ~~most~~ uncomfortably ^{near} ~~close to~~ Port Moresby, the key point at the southeast extremity of New Guinea. Port Moresby ~~lies in~~ command ^{S Torres} ~~of the~~ Strait. ~~of Torres~~. Who holds ^{Port} Moresby commands the approaches to northern Australia. The Japanese have already been bombing the place from the bases they ^{have} ~~are~~ established at Rabaul in northern New Britain.

Australia today went on an absolute war basis. Every detail of life in the Commonwealth is under strict control, all prices and wages frozen, all speculation forbidden, profits frozen at a flat four per cent. The government also proclaimed conscription of everybody, both employers and employees.

CHINA

5) One important incident of the Far Eastern war today was a conference at New Delhi, India, between Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and ^{the heads} ~~big shots~~ of the government of Hindustan. The Chinese chief was accompanied by Madame Chiang and a military staff of fifteen. On ^{in Delhi} the other side of the table were the Viceroy of India, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Marquess of Linlithgow, leader of the All-India Congress. And that, they say, is what made it important. ^{For the} ~~The~~ effective cooperation of India depends very largely upon the attitude of Nehru. ^{TP} The Chinese have openly criticized the failure of the British to arouse the people of India to the needs of the war effort. It is believed that Chiang discussed among other things, the improving of transport between China, India and Burma.

^{a Chinese} We now hear that Chiang has ^{an} ~~an~~ army of eight million trained men, three million in active service,

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five million in reserve. If he only had the modern mechanized equipment to go with it, that would ^{indeed} make a formidable picture. ^{At the} ~~An~~ authority ^{for this} ~~on the statement~~ is the Chinese author, Dr. Lin Yu-tang, ~~who writes it in an article~~ in the AMERICAN MAGAZINE. Dr. Lin evidently does not believe the recent report from Chungking that Chiang is on the verge of starting an offensive at the rear of the Japanese. He won't start anything until the proper time comes, when the American fleet comes nearer and the war is brought home to the Japanese themselves, with the bombing of Tokyo and Osaka. So says Dr. Lin Yu-tang.

CANADA

The four by-elections for seats in the Canadian Parliament had a peculiar importance. The issue was, the support or non-support of the liberal government of Prime Minister MacKenzie-King. ^{and} The returns all appear to favor the government, ~~to the outspoken chagrin of opposition leaders.~~ Conservative ^{Premier} ~~Prime Minister~~ Hepburn of Ontario, said he considered the elections a dismall failure, ^{and} ~~he~~ went on to declare that they proved ~~that~~ Canada has not yet awakened, ~~and he added:~~

^{TP} "I don't think we will awaken until we get an invasion ^{said Hepburn of Ontario,} on the Atlantic or the Pacific," ^{and} "and I think it's more likely to come on the Pacific. We can't budge the people of Canada until we have a Pearl Harbor. The war

in the Pacific is astounding us," ~~he~~ continued, ^{the Ontario Premier. Then he said, why} "the proud United States fleet is in hiding, and we

Canadians can't send a battleship into the Pacific."

NORMANDIE

The great ship NORMANDIE , eighty-three thousand tons of her, lies on her side on the bed of the Hudson River, with chunks of ice banging at her fire-scarred hull. And people are still asking. How could it have happened? With rumors of sabotage still rife.

In answer to this we have the reiterated statement of both the Navy and the New York Fire Department, saying it was all an accident, and that she can be made as good as ever for service as a transport at a cost of around five million dollars.

Among those most distressed over this catastrophe are the officers and crew of the NORMANDIE, who have been living in New York hotels and apartments since the Coast Guard took the ship over a couple of months ago. They expressed the feeling that the magnificent equipment of the NORMANDIE for fire-detecting and fire-fighting had not been fully used. If they had been allowed to

remain aboard, they intimated, the blaze would never have gotten out of control.

CLAY MORGAN

This afternoon I met a friend, and noted the lugubrious expression on his face.

"What are you looking so gloomy about?" I asked.

He replied: "I've just been over to the dock to take a look at the NORMANDIE."

I didn't wonder at his dejection. He was Clay Morgan now Assistant to the President of the N.B.C., and formerly associated with the French Line. He had a lot to do with the Normandie in her day of glory. For example, Clay Morgan was aboard the liner on her maiden voyage. He was in charge of a party of fifty odd newspaper people who made the trip when the French Queen of the Seas came over here for the first time -- and what a triumphant entry into New York harbor that was. I thought some reminiscence of that first voyage might be interesting so I asked Clay Morgan to tell us about it. What do you remember the most vividly, Clay?

C.M.:- The magnificence of the boast, Lowell, it left us rather breathless when we first went aboard. And then there was that dramatic element of suspense on the way across. Was the NORMANDIE going to break the speed record for the trans- Atlantic crossing? Day by day, we of the newspaper party knew that the ship was going at a record-breaking clip. We asked the officers, but they denied any intention of conquering the blue ribbon.

L.T.:- What was the reason? Were they just cautious?

C.M.:- Yes, they didn't want to arouse expectations and then have anything go wrong. They knew they were breaking the record, but a turbine might develop trouble or something might go wrong with a propellor. If so, they didn't want to build up to a let-down. So they kept us in suspense. And hour after hour the suspense increased -- with suppressed excitement.

L.T.:- When did you find out that the trip was a record-breaker?

C.M.:- On the last day, when they were hardly more than a hundred miles out of New York. They gave us each a small bronze medal with a little blue ribbon attached to it. These had been made ready before we left France -- so, of course, they'd intended all along to set a new record.

L.T.:- And, I suppose that when those blue ribbon medals were passed around, the celebration began.

C.M.:- It sure did -- and what a celebration. It's a melancholy scene to remember now -- and know that the old NORMANDIE, burned and water-logged, is lying capsized at the dock.

LaGUARDIA

New York's Mayor LaGuardia ^{visited} ~~went to~~ Washington today, and as he left the White House he told newspapermen he had officially resigned as Director of Civilian Defense. ^{He said he didn't} ~~He did not profess to~~ know who would succeed him; ^{that} ~~said~~ the job probably would remain in abeyance for a while. ~~But~~, President Roosevelt immediately announced that he was appointing Dr. James Landis, former Dean of the Harvard Law School, who has for ^{number 2 man,} several weeks been ^{executive officer of the O.C.D.} ~~and~~ ~~doing all the most important work.~~

LOCKARD

And now back to Pearl Harbor for a moment:—

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One of the dramatic features of the Roberts Report on Pearl Harbor concerned the soldier who actually heard the Japanese planes approaching. It was Private Joseph L. Lockard. He's now a sergeant, and what's more, the War Department announces that he has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. To cap it all, he's going to be brought back to the mainland and sent to the Officers' ~~Candidate~~ School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. ^{TP} The citation reads:—

"To ^{give} ~~get~~ instruction in the operation of aircraft warning equipment to another soldier under training, Sergeant Lockard, in devotion to duty, remained at his station upon completion of the scheduled operating period."

And the citation continues:— " At ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

approximately seven two A.M., a signal was detected on his instruments which, in the opinion of Lockard,

signified a large number of airplanes in flight
~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ about a hundred and thirty-two miles
distant. After rechecking ~~the distance and azimuth,~~
Lockard promptly contacted the duty officer ~~and~~ of the
information center and furnished him with complete
particulars of the readings. Subsequent investigations
have proven conclusively that the airplanes reported
by Lockard were the large Japanese air force which
attacked the Island of Oahu."

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ROOSEVELT

Here's the reaction of the President to this day's contribution of history: the American people are face to face with a world-encircling war, whether they like it or not. That was Mr. Roosevelt's comment at his press conference this afternoon. He went on to say that the first objective of the United States obviously is to stop the enemy from breaking through. He did not explain or expatiate what he meant by a "break-through." And he said further that we also ^{must} ~~needed to~~ do as much damage as possible to the ~~resources~~ resources of the enemy while we build up the overwhelming superiority essential to ultimate victory. Such over-whelming superiority, he is confident, will surely be forthcoming.

The President made these remarks in reply to questions concerning the reports that are pouring in from all parts of the country of the exaggerated

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complacency of the ^{American} people in the face of all the bad news from the Pacific. Mr. Roosevelt replied that, ~~on the contrary,~~ he thought the country as a whole is becoming more and more realistic. As for himself, he pointed out that he is talking in ~~the~~ terms of what he described "basic realism." And he repeated that we have to stand fast against the possibility of an enemy break-through, which he did not define.

And now a word on
a 1/2 defense from Hugh.