

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The battle in the southwest Pacific is now in its most critical stage. ~~We and our Allies~~ ^{The United Nations} ~~are now~~ ^{are} facing the Japanese on five fronts, A battleline without precedent or parallel or even approach in the military history of the world, ~~It~~ stretches ^{ing} from Burma to ~~the edge of~~ Polynesia. That's ~~a line stretching over~~ ^{extending some} four thousand miles. To visualize it you may imagine an attack that ~~extends~~ ^{reaches} from the Rio Grande to the North Pole. The most ~~far~~ ^{far} sighted student of modern warfare never imagined a campaign of such colossal scope.

Obviously, it was all planned, we don't know how many years in advance, with a definite time

table. Our big hope now is that the Battle of Macassar Strait, with its heavy losses to the Japanese, has put a decided crimp in that time table.

But that affair in the Straits isn't the only favorable news we have. Reports from all five fronts, from southern Burma, Singapore, Macassar, the Philippines, and the Australian mandated islands, give color to the belief that the five Striking Forces of the Mikado's armies are up against ^{stiff} resistance everywhere.

Reinforcements have been sent and more are on their way, all out aid, as Navy Secretary Knox puts it. And

There is a bit of encouragement in that. The important

thing is that the Japanese have got to win quickly,

if at all. They've got to reach their objectives,

particularly the rich island of Java, before the help

that President Roosevelt is hurrying across the Pacific

arrives in time to overwhelm them.

50

The Battle of Macassar Strait evidently is going on still. Every day brings in accounts of more men-o-war and transports being sunk. Today, the town of Emma Haven, in Western Sumatra, was attacked by a squadron of Japanese bombers, which set fire to two merchant ships and hit still another.

H
On the island of New Britain, the Australians are still holding out in the ^{Jungle and} hills behind Rabaul, the

city built by the Germans when they owned the island, ^{the city that} ~~it~~ was destroyed in a volcanic

eruption. The Japanese are landing more and more troops there, ^{with} ~~though~~ the Australian air force ~~has~~ ^{ing} attacked their ships ~~in the harbor~~, repeatedly.

INDIES

Evidently the Battle of Macassair Straits was a real death trap for the Japanese. Here's the score today as given out officially at Batavia. Thirty-One enemy warships and transports either sunk or damaged.

Thirty-one! That's a formidable number! ~~a real bag!~~

5) Of those, nine warships were accounted for by the Dutch, ^{plus} ~~and~~ seven transports. By the Americans three warships, three transports. In addition to that,

~~our side bagged~~ ^{Jap} fifteen ^{planes}.

And again it appears that Uncle Sam's flying fortresses, those much criticized airships, did the

lion's share of the damage, ^{with} ~~and~~ only one flying

fortress was lost. ^{IF} According to London, the Japanese

had a hundred vessels in their invasion fleet ^{that}

[^] ~~tried to get thru~~ the Macassar Straits.

The total score since the war started ~~is~~

stands: -
now [^]seventy-six Japanese ships put out of commission
by American forces. Fifty-two sunk, ten probably sunk,
fourteen damaged.

MALAYA

For several days the word from Singapore was that Kluang still was in British hands. Now the Japanese have landed south of Kluang both on the east and west coast, but Imperial forces are still holding on, although, it was admitted from London that the British had withdrawn to a line south of Kluang. That was taken to mean that the Kluang airdrome had been captured by the Japs; a key point commanding rail and highway communication lines. On top of that, tonight comes the grim announcement that the high command has ordered the evacuation of the northern coast of Singapore Island itself. To be evacuated by noon Friday. That is, all civilians.

The island of Singapore might be called a peninsula, because it is connected with Johore Bharu, the mainland of Malaya -- by a granite causeway, broken only by a small drawbridge to allow the passing of small craft through a narrow channel.

To make that causeway completely impassable, the British would need hundreds of tons of dynamite; The causeway is about a mile long, and will make easy passage not merely for troops but for tanks and all mechanized transport. So every day we come closer to the tragic consequences of the fact that Singapore was built impregnable -- from the sea but not from the mainland. The causeway-head is only thirteen miles across the island from the naval base which bristles with long range cannon placed so as to defend the island from naval attack.

Today's story tells how the Japanese have landed a strong force on the eastern coast of Malaya south of the British lines, a landing that cost the Japs a cruiser and a transport, but, their troops disembarked just the same. There are also reports of fresh Japanese landings on the west coast. The defenders of Singapore now face a last stand fight against Japanese artillery, planes, parachute troops and landings from the sea.

The British deny the claims of the Japanese that the enemy is now within twenty-five miles of Johore Straits, and that causeway. According to the Imperial high command, the enemy are still forty-three miles away, at Seranggang. The difference being a matter of some eighteen miles.

Members of the British Parliament today were dismayed by the revelations of a letter received by a prominent Conservative. It was written by a former officer of the defense organization in Malaya. The contents of that letter are not exactly new to anybody now, since it stated that the defenses of Malaya were extremely weak. Specifically, the writer declared that northwest of the Singapore open roadstead there were no defenses, no troops, scarcely even police, with the long coastline unprotected and unpatrolled except by occasional aircraft.

And he revealed that when the Japanese landed at Kota Bahru, the airdrome near the frontier

OF THailand, there were only twelve Indian troopers
and one officer on hand to resist them.

CHURCHILL FOLLOW MALAYA

But a note of hope, even about Singapore, comes from the British Parliament. Clement ~~R~~ Attlee, the Lord Privy Seal, told the Commons ^{today} that reinforcements which had been sent are already proving effective. They ^{se, he said,} were withdrawn at the earliest possible moment from places where troops were most readily available. "The position in the Pacific," ^{declared} ~~said~~ the Lord Privy Seal, "depends on command of the sea, and we have not got that." ~~We were weak there," he admitted~~ "In fact," he said, "it was a marvel" that they had been able to avoid absolute disaster since the fall of France.

533
Meantime, Lord Moyne ^{today} was assuring the House of Lords that the allied councils were giving first priorities to the war in the Far East and especially to reestablishing the position against Japan. In ^{he said that} Malaya [^] already at least a hundred Japanese aircraft

had been destroyed and many more damaged. The government spokesman was most enthusiastic about American planes in that part of the world. And he added that the Battle of Macassar Straits showed that ~~the~~ Allied sea power was already recovering from the shock of ^{early} ~~the first~~ disasters.

All this came out in the course of ^{today's} a debate ^{on} the Churchill government. ^{for} ~~and~~ a vote of confidence, ~~Clement Atlee made the motion~~ when the session of Parliament opened today.

BURMA

In Burma, the fighting today was officially reported as still being east of the Salween. The Salween is the great river on which Moulmein stands, and Moulmein is the objective of the Japanese advance from Siam. Of course their ultimate purpose is the cutting of the Burma road into China.

One bright note from those regions tells of those same volunteer pilots, the so-called Flying Tigers. They've shot down six or twelve more Japanese planes and damaged nine others, besides raiding the Japanese base at Bangkok.

EARTHQUAKE

To add to all other forms of sudden death
in the Far Pacific, ^{today they had} ~~now we have~~ an earthquake.

There is a good deal of disagreement among experts
about where it actually happened, ^{but,} ~~wherever~~ it was,
the shock was of great violence. ~~Australian-~~xxxxxxxxxx~~~~
^{TP In Australia}
~~observation stations report it so severe that two~~
out of eight seismographs were put out of commission.

~~And~~ Observers at Fordham University in New York,
^{say the quake}
~~declare it~~ must have been of disastrous magnitude.

^{TP} According to the Australian ~~observers~~, it was somewhere
near the Aru Islands, and eight hundred and fifty
miles away from where the Japanese forces are active.
The instruments in New York indicated ~~that~~ it was
probably in the Banda Sea, slightly to the east of
the ^{spot} ~~place~~ where the fighting has been going on in
~~Macassar~~ Straits ^{of Macassar.}

HURLEY

Some days ago President Roosevelt made a
Brigadier-General out of Patrick J. Hurley, former
Secretary of War under President Hoover. It now
^{Oklahoma}
turns out that Handsome Pat, as he used to be known
in Washington, will not do any fighting, ~~at least not~~
^{just at present.}
on the field of battle. He's to be a diplomat, ^{the}
first Minister from the United States to New Zealand.

In fact, Presidential Secretary Steve Early said he
believed Brigadier-General Hurley ^{had} ~~was~~ already arrived
^{at Wellington,}
~~Auckland,~~ the capital of the Pacific
Paradise where they make all
those social, economic and
political experiments for
the rest of us.

STEAMER

46
The story of a great tragedy on the high seas was revealed when the steamship COAMO arrived at San Juan, Puerto Rico. She brought seventy-one people into San Juan who had not been aboard her when she started on her voyage. They were survivors of a ship belonging to one of the Allied nations, torpedoed somewhere in the Atlantic. Seventy-one survivors out of three hundred and twenty-one! ^{TF} According to one account, more than two hundred and fifty are either dead or missing, but there may be even more.

We aren't told the name of that torpedoed liner, ~~where she sailed from or where she was going.~~ *but she was on her way from Halifax to Bermuda. Suddenly, a* ~~We only know that somewhere out in the Atlantic a~~ submarine, undoubtedly German, fired two torpedoes at her without warning, fired them about ten minutes to two on the morning of January Nineteenth. In the shock of the striking of the first torpedo, two hundred

47
of those aboard were swept overboard. The liner, evidently a passenger ship, sank in twenty-five minutes. Two of the lifeboats were smashed by the torpedoes, but the chief officer, who was saved, thinks two lifeboats besides the one that carried him, managed to get away. The captain is among those missing.

Some of the survivors were afloat five days in a lifeboat, a boat so crowded ^{that} ~~with~~ some of the people aboard had to stand in ~~that~~ order to breathe. For five days their daily rations were one biscuit, a quarter of a cup of milk, and two ~~teaspoonfuls~~ of condensed milk. Among them was a little girl two years old, who kept cheerful and lively all five days, wrapped in somebody's overcoat.

SUBMARINES

Submarines in the Gulf of Mexico! The Naval Port Director of Port Arthur, Texas, issued a warning today to all shipping, that a submersible had been sighted some fifteen miles off the Texas coast.

The commander said it wasn't definite that it was an enemy marauder, but anyway that was the presumption.

48
At New Orleans, headquarters of the Eighth Naval District, the report was confirmed with no comment.

We also hear today that twelve more survivors were rescued from the tanker FRANCES E. POWELL, the ninth American merchant ship to be sunk off the Atlantic coast. The entire crew got away to begin with, but the wave after the explosion picked up one lifeboat as though it were a cork and tossed everybody in it into the sea.

Later on ~~it turned out that~~ the commander
of the naval air station at Corpus Christi, Texas,
reported that there were two submarines off the
Texas coast, ^{both} ~~probably~~ German, ^{presumably}.

NELSON

Production Chief Donald Nelson today told ^{the} a ~~group of Congressmen~~ ^{Country} exactly where he stood ^{when he} ~~he~~ appeared before the Senate Committee investigating production. Senator Brewster of Maine asked him whether he would fight against political interference. His reply was that he isn't interested in politics in any particular. He considers it a business that must be learned from childhood just like ^{the} mail order business. Then he added these words:- "I am here for one purpose, to put this program over." Nelson further declared that he had no alibis to make now and will have none six months from now. If he fails, he'll take the rap.

^{by the way,}
Nelson ~~also~~ [^] protested against the

indiscriminate criticism that has been made of

dollar-a-year men. ^{TV} Senator Brewster asked him whether

the Committee had been hampering him because its report

declared that some of those dollar-a-year executives were lobbyists for big corporations. Nelson's answer was, "Yes, definitely, you're hampering me, you're making good men afraid to come down here and work for the defense program." He added, however, that the dollar-a-year ^{men}~~boys~~ should not be employed without being completely investigated. Nor should they be appointed if men of equal ability ^{can}~~could~~ be found to do their jobs ^{— men already on}~~on the~~ regular government salary basis.

8 1/2

LOVE

Attention insurance actuaries! A farmer boy from Altoona, Kansas, has ventured into a field where no insurance man has ever dared to tread. He is writing love insurance. He's a private at Camp Callan, California! For twenty-five cents every pay-day this interesting pioneer has been selling policies guaranteeing the affections of the girls of his mates, principally worried rookies. Apparently the seasoned doughboy isn't a good customer. ^{IP} We don't know upon what statistics of amour this amateur actuary has calculated his risks. But he drags down fifteen

dollars a month in this way.

And now for a chap is no rookie in love or any-thing else. ~~And now~~ Hugh full speed a 1/2 ahead for you.