

CONFERENCE

L. J. Sunoco. Wed. Jan. 21, 1942.

Better news from
~~Everything's hunky-dory at~~ Rio tonight.

This morning Acting President Castillo of Argentina had announced that his government positively would not break with the Axis powers, and that ^{that} was his last word. So the diplomats in the Brazilian capitol got busy on ^a ~~the~~ new formula which would enable both Argentina and Chile to join the nineteen other American Republics and keep a solid hemisphere front. The formula was drafted by Foreign Minister Aranha of Brazil in cooperation with the delegation from the United States. We don't know the details of the formula; only that Under-Secretary Sumner Welles told the newspapermen late this afternoon that everything is all right. ^{Which} ~~that~~ is taken to mean that the Foreign Ministers of Argentina and Chile have accepted the formula.

~~of course~~ It still has to be presented to the conference. And even if the conference approves it, ^{that} ~~it~~ doesn't mean ~~that~~ all twenty-one of the Republics will break with the Nazis and the Italians.

MALAYA

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Senator Connolly this afternoon made the prediction that Singapore was bound to fall.

It will be months, he said, before we can make our strength felt in that part of the Pacific region.

But the actual news from Malaya is that the British intend to fight it out for all they are worth. The Japanese lost thirteen bombers in the biggest raid they've yet tried on Singapore. There were ninety Japanese bombers in the attack, so a loss of thirteen is ~~considered quite~~ large. ~~Even ten percent is usually thought of as disastrous.~~

At the same time the British admitted that they had to withdraw again on the East Coast. The Japanese were simply too many for them. In the Northwestern part of Johore State British cannon were firing ^{at} short range over open sights.

~~XXXXXXXX~~
XXXXXXX

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And there's unfavorable news from the Dutch East Indies. The Japanese, partly with the use of parachute troops, now have all of Minahassa. That's the northern arm of the Island of Celebes, a long finger of land stretching out towards Mindanao. The Dutch fought as well as they could with the help of Australian ~~air~~planes, but they were hopelessly outnumbered. A high official said that if the Dutch are to hold on to what they still have, they must have more planes.

BURMA

In Burma tonight a Japanese army is fighting its way toward Rangoon. Heading toward a place made famous by Rudyard Kipling -- the old Moulmein Pagoda "looking eastward to the sea." Actually it looks westward toward the Bay of Bengal - down the Salween River. The armies of the Mikado are only forty-five miles from Moulmein according to a dispatch from Rangoon printed in a London newspaper. Heavy fighting all day twenty miles to the southeast of Myawaddi, and only forty-five east of Moulmain.

Americans are fighting in those parts too. A squadron of United States fighter pilots flew as an escort for a raiding fleet of six Blenheim bombers. They went for the airdrome at Mehsod which was believed to be the base from which the Japanese have been bombing Burma. A squadron of Japanese fighter planes came out to meet them, but the Blenheims dropped their loads of explosives and incendiaries along the runways of the airdrome and among other planes which the

Japanese had tried to hide in the forest nearby. All the Blenheims got home safely. The leader of the American squadron, his name is not mentioned, but he is a native of Scarsdale, New York, reports that he bagged two Japanese planes and probably a third. Antoerh American from Tacoma, Washington mixed it up with a Japanese R-97 fighter and reported that he saw it falling with smoke pouring out of its tail. He was too busy fighting the next one to make sure. Another U.S. flyer, from Fort Collins, Colorado, got back safely to Rangoon with his windshiled shattered and twenty-seven bulletholes in his Tomahawk plane. One American plane was missing.

The British in Tenasserim are moving back. That's the part of Burma which stretches far down toward the Malay Peninsula. The Japanese are reported to be in great force and moving fast, outnumbering the British.

ARMY - FOLLOW LEAD

Last night the Navy reported the story of a dashing exploit by a Naval officer. Tonight's war communique gives a vivid account of what a Major in Uncle Sam's army did on December Twenty-second.

Major Thomas H. Trapnell, a former West Point football hero, was in command of a cavalry unit at Rosario, just inland from Lingayen Gulf, where the Japanese were landing eighty thousand troops. ^R The cavalymen were fighting an almost impossible rear guard action under heavy fire from both Japanese ~~infantry~~ infantry and tanks. The Japs were trying to rush a bridge across a stream at Rosario. If our men could ~~ex~~ destroy that bridge they would be able to hold up the enemy advance for a considerable while. General MacArthur tells us that Major Trapnell got his men off the bridge, ~~then~~ sat tight between his troopers and the advancing Japs, and succeeded in setting fire to a truck on the

bridge. The enemy fire grew hotter and hotter, but

Tom

Trapnell waited until the flames from the blazing truck spread to the timbers of the bridge. Not until

that bridge was ablaze and impassable did ~~Trapnell~~ *the Major*

leave ~~the spot~~ in a scout car. Even then he retired

slowly, picking up wounded soldiers as he drove along,

rallying his own men "with complete disregard of his

personal safety." Those were the words of the

official communique. And for that the Distinguished

Service Cross has been awarded to Major Thomas J. H.

Trapnell of Uncle Sam's cavalry for extraordinary

heroism in action. Football fans will remember him as

Trap.

The army has nothing more to report tonight,

says

~~the~~ the War Department. But an earlier communique

told us

~~reported~~ that General MacArthur's men had hammered

against

~~in~~ savage counter-attacks ~~on~~ the Japanese in Batan.

~~and~~ ^{ing} driven ^A them back with heavy losses, and recaptured ^{ing} ~~ed~~ ^A all the positions they had previously lost. The first story from the Philippines was that the Japanese had apparently gained control of one-third of the Batan Peninsula. By filtering in behind the lines and attacking from the rear, backed up by charges from the front, they had penetrated the center of General MacArthur's ^{lines.} ~~battle array.~~ That pushed him back quite ^{Now} ~~a bit, but~~ ^{has resulted in the} the counter-attack ^{recaptured} all the ^{ground} ~~positions~~ ^{that} ~~xxx~~ had been lost. ^{||}

U - BOATS

Two more ships bagged by U-Boats lurking off our eastern coast. So the Navy tells us tonight.

On the regular run between New York and Savannah, a combination cargo and passenger liner named "The City of Atlanta," was steaming along.

A vessel known to thousands, for a host of tourists had travelled aboard her at one time or another.

Monday morning, so the Navy tells us, she was off stormy Cape Hatteras when a U-Boat attacked without warning. And of her crew of forty-six there were only two survivors. Forty-four went down before they hardly knew what had happened.

The second, a Latvian freighter with a crew of thirty-two: twenty-one of whom are safe at Charleston, South Carolina - picked up by a tanker; at considerable risk to the tanker, for it's a favorite trick of U-boats to hang around on the

chance of bagging a rescue ship.

After the Latvian frieghter was hit, nine of her officers and crew stayed aboard ~~and~~ and tried to salvage her. But they found it was no use.

Later they were rescued by a Brazilian ship.

These two sinkings made a total of six merchantmen the Nazis have bagged off our East coast. The first four were tankers.

Previous attacks have been spaced at wide intervals. But the news that the Navy released today means that they struck three times in one day.

The Navy likewise tells us that it is taking strong counter-measures against these invaders of the undersea.

PRODUCTION

Enter the WPB, exit the OPM. As one of his first achievements, Production Chief Donald Nelson has wiped out the Office of Production Management.

That doesn't mean its members are ~~all~~ fired. All its key men have been taken into the WPB, the War

Production Board, ^{Donald} to advise Nelson. ^{William} ~~Big Bill~~ Knudsen,

who ^a now is [^] Lieutenant-General in charge of War Department

Production, will be one of those advisors. Sidney

^{his former colleague} Hillman, ~~his assistant~~ [^] in the OPM, is now named as

Director of the Labor Division of the WPB.

Such is the first use ^{Donald} that Nelson has made

of the sweeping powers given ~~to~~ him by the President.

He has also swept away OPM's Division of Contract

Distribution, ^{which formerly} ~~DELETED WHICH USED TO~~ function under the direction

of Floyd ~~R~~ Odum. ^{ed} This ^{has been} done at ^{Floyd} Odum's ~~own~~ own

~~suggestion~~ request.

Donald Nelson made all this public today at his

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first press conference, ~~a new experience for him.~~

^{Reporters}
~~Newspapers~~ asked him what about small businessmen.

They needn't worry, he replied. To get through with ~~ex~~ President Roosevelt's program all businesses, large and small, will be put to work. And he intends to encourage sub-contracting.

What about labor, was the next question.

Labor, he replied, would have an equal voice, and these he used ~~these~~ words: "I don't care where the ideas come from, so long as they're good." And he added, "I am going to do this job, ^{But,} ~~and~~ if I find I can't do it, I'll step down."

Nelson added that he ^{is} ~~is~~ making no violent changes because, as he explained, any drastic upheaval would mean delay.

Another thing he ^{has} ~~is~~ done is ~~to~~ order the motor industry to stop making any more passenger cars, ~~and~~ ^{or} even light trucks, by February First.

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If any such are needed for the army or other

Government purposes they will be drawn from the

stock now in the hands of dealers ^{cars} ~~that was~~ frozen

by an order issued earlier this month.

MUHLENBERG

An officer of Uncle Sam's army has been in hot water out in Ohio. Colonel H. C. Kress Muhlenberg made a speech to a flying club at Columbus last month *that* ~~and~~ raised quite a hubub. It was reported that he had made acid remarks about the military and naval policies of ~~the~~ United States Government and ^{had} talked bitterly ~~xx~~ about American planes ~~and other munitions~~ being sent Abroad when we needed ~~ed~~ them ourselves.

On the day following his address ~~at that~~ ~~flying club,~~ Colonel Muhlenberg, who was a former air officer of the Fifth Army Corps, was put under house arrest.

Last ~~on~~ Monday a Board of ten Colonels sat in courtmartial on Colonel Muhlenberg. He was charged with conduct unbecoming an officer and ~~xx~~ a gentleman, wrongful discussion of the foreign and domestic policies of the United States contrary to the

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Ninety-sixth article of war, and wrongful criticism of the Lend Lease program. After hearing all the evidence they retired ^{today} and came out after thirty-nine minutes, whereupon the Judge-Advocate announced in these words: "Colonel Muhlenberg, you have been found not ^{guilty} ~~guilty~~ on all charges and specifications. Court is adjourned."

One of the witnesses was the aviation reporter for a Columbus weekly newspaper. He testified that he had understood at the time that Colonel Muhlenberg's remarks were strictly confidential and, in any event, should not have been interpreted as a criticism of the Administration or the Lend Lease program.

Other witnesses declared that the Colonel had made no direct reference to the Government, to its policies, or to the Lend Lease program.

In a statement which was read to the court,
Colonel Muhlenberg himself said that the subject of
air defense had been so close to his heart that
possibly his interest and enthusiasm led him to use
expressions that ^{he should not have used,} ~~were supposed to be doubtful.~~

RECRUITS

The War Department has heeded the request of Brigadier General Hershey not to accept recruits of draft age. All the recruiting officers have been ordered, beginning February First, not to accept any men of draft age who volunteer unless they can prove they are not giving up war production jobs just to enlist. That, however, doesnot apply to men eighteen or nineteen years old, as they are beneath the selective service age anyway.

So, after February First, everybody over the age of twenty and under the age of thirty-five who wants to volunteer, must have a clearance card.

STRIKE

They have two unions in Detroit -- of city employees -- one ~~is~~ a local of the American Federation of Labor, the other a C.I.O. union of the State County Municipal Workers. The A.F. of L. local has voted to quite work at four o'clock Friday morning, and close up all public functions except schools, hospitals, police and fire and public utilities. That is, unless they get a raise.

The answer of the Detroit City fathers is a decided NO. Furthermore, if the job-holders walk out, the Mayor promises the strike will be broken, with police protection. Mayor Jeffries evidently waxed indignant after reading a copy of the instructions to strikers which promised a good clout on the head, possibly even bloodshed for anybody who attempted to go through their picket lines. Any city worker who answers the strike call loses his job, says the Mayor. And it will be given to somebody else who will be protected by the cops.

However, the city council isn't entirely obdurate to the request for a raise. The unions have asked for fifteen percent more because the cost of living has gone up. So the Council is going to have a budget session and investigate.

BOYLE

In the British House of Lords there's a gentleman affectionately known to the public as Ginger Boyle. He's an Admiral of the Fleet, and his proper title is His Lordship the Earl of Cork.

~~and Orrey.~~ But his family's name is Boyle, and

his hair is red, ^{so he} ~~He xxxxx~~ became popular among

His Majesty's tars as Ginger Boyle. ~~so~~ No matter how

much of an Earl he is no one thinks of him as ~~xxxxxx~~

I knew him in world anything else. ~~than Ginger Boyle~~ war days of long ago - and then two he was just Ginger Boyle.
Ginger breaks into the news today because he

made a vivid suggestion in the House of Lords

today. He wants everybody in Britain to have military

training, factory workers, civil defense ^{workers and all} ~~xxxxxx~~ and to blazes with the niceties of international law.

According to International law if a parachute soldier

drops into your back yard, you must not bop him on

the head with ^{an} ~~the~~ axe, ~~or any other weapon.~~

International law requires that you should hold him

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for the arrival of the police or the military.

International law doesn't care what the paratrooper

might do to you while you're waiting for the cops

or soldiers. "Why should we be the only ones who

cling to international law, ~~"says Ginger Boyle,~~

says Ginger, the Earl of
"when nobody else does?" "We are dealing with a

ruthless body of people who do not know what

international law is," added Admiral
Ginger Boyle the fiery Earl
of Cork.

And now Hugh, the
Earl of Blue Sunoco.

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of Cork.