

S.S. - Sumoco. Feb. 17, 1942. Tuesday.

JAVA

Java expects an immediate attack, and the Dutch authorities at Batavia today warned the people to fight to the last ditch. The Japanese in southern Sumatra are extending their occupation, and only a narrow strait ^{now} separates ^{them} ~~southern Sumatra~~ from western Java - the Sunda Strait, twenty-five miles wide.

Today, enemy planes were bombing small islands in the narrow strip of water, apparently as a preliminary for moving to invade the island-stepping stones. These events caused the Dutch authorities to warn the people of the probability of an immediate attack - "to storm these gates", as they phrase it.

PHILIPPINES

From the Batan peninsula ~~in the Philippines,~~
comes another recommendation for a Congressional Medal
of Honor. The length and heroism of the fight out there
is something that might cause us to run out of medals.
The one recommended today is exhilarating for two
reasons. Firstly, the hero ~~to be honored~~ is an enlisted
man, a sergeant, the first enlisted man to be
recommended for the nation's highest military honor.

Secondly, he's a Filipino, a sergeant of the
Philippine Scouts. We all know that those Philippine
Scouts are a mighty fine bunch of soldiers, their
training started in the old days of the early American
occupation of the islands.

We have
~~They've~~ only brief word about this new hero,
Sergeant Jose Calugas. *In tonight's* *Just in,*
~~In today's~~ communique, General
MacArthur tells how the little Filipino, a mere mess
sergeant, voluntarily and without orders ran a thousand

yards across a shell swept area to a position where a gun had been knocked out. There he organized a volunteer squad, which put the gun back into action.

Other Philippine news is less inspiring - the Japs bombing a refugee camp in the south of the Batan peninsula - and killing twenty-three ^{Philippine} women and children. For days, the enemy warplanes attacked the refugee camp with leaflets, a proclamation of Japanese friendship for the Philippine people. Then bombs were substituted for pamphlets - ^{this} ~~for an~~ outrage against the refugee camp.

As for military operations, ~~there was~~ not much action - mostly ominous portents. General MacArthur states that the Japanese cannon are blasting away with increasing intensity, and that ^{enemy} artillery reinforcements are being brought up.

The Batan peninsula news today, as on every day, adds appropriateness to the proclamation of - "General Douglas MacArthur Week." This week ~~is~~^{is} set by the Red Cross and dedicated to the collection of funds for that organization of mercy.

SINGAPORE

The Japs, having taken Singapore, have given it a new name. They ^{have} rebaptized it -- Shonan. The first syllable comes from the Japanese word "Showa"-- which designates the present era of the Sun of Heaven Hirohito. The second syllable ---"nan" means south. Or, also "light of the south". So hereafter enemy headlines from Singapore will be datelined -- Shonan.

BURMA

In Burma, the British report that their lines are firm along the Bilin River. That's the line to which they have withdrawn, after the Japs drove westward from that other river -- the Salween. The British have pulled back considerably, and their line is now only fifty miles from the Rangoon-Mandalay railroad, which feeds the Burma Road.

British and American flyers are striking heavily at enemy communications.

INDIA

In India, a conference of the greatest importance seems to be in the offing. Today Mahatma Gandhi left his home and started for Calcutta, and the word is that he's on his way to meet the Chinese war leader, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. The strong man of China is still in India, trying to line up the support of Indian Nationalist leaders in behalf of the Allied Nations.

And we hear that the present head of the Nationalist Party is in Calcutta, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It is believed that he too will take part in the Mahatma Gandhi -Chiang-Kai-Shek discussions. Also - the Number One Mohammedan leader, head of the Moslem League -- to discuss matters with Chiang.

This certainly looks like an all-out attempt to line up Nationalist India solidly against Japan - a thing that the British Empire would greatly like to see.

I heard some impressive things stated today

by a young Indian scholar now touring America. He's a Hindu Nationalist, Dr. Krishnalal Shridharani, who has just published a book over here, a volume called, "My India, My America". Krishnalal Shridharani's thesis is that years ago the Japanese scheme was to rouse all the peoples of Eastern Asia against their white overlords. And Japan was succeeding, says he. Then came Tokyo's campaign of brutal aggression against China, and the Jap was unmasked. His true face was seen by the peoples of eastern Asia. And they turned against the Tokyo gospel of revolution against the White overlord.

Not all of them changed, however, the Nationalist leader told me today. And because of the Japanese victories, like the capture of Singapore, a large part of the Asiatic masses might swing to Japan -- unless they're persuaded, unless something decisive is done to counteract the Tokyo propaganda, the huge Tokyo propaganda that accompanies the

march of the Japanese armies.

Dr. Krishnalal Shridharani expressed the opinion that a crusade is needed, and he said the only country that could head a Far Eastern crusade was the United States. He thought that the European powers like Great Britain had completely lost face, had forfeited all confidence in Eastern Asia. But he said that the native peoples out there have noted the conduct of the United States in the Philippines. He says they realize that we did not exploit the Philippines for our own gain, and that we guaranteed to the Filipinos their independence, and named a date.

In consequence, thinks Dr. Krishnalal Shridharani, only the U.S.A. has the moral position to head democracy's crusade against the Japanese propaganda in the Far East.

RUSSIA

In Russia, the Soviets report that they have taken the key City of Novgorod on the northern front between Moscow and Leningrad. The fall of that city to the Red army, would represent one of the most important successes in the winter counter-offensive against the Nazi war machine.

And Moscow reports that the Germans are prepared to abandon the equally important key point of Kharkov, on the southern front. This they say they have learned from a captured German officer.

Moscow also tells ~~of~~ something huge on the industrial front. All Soviet workers that were evacuated from the territories captured by the Nazi blitzkrieg last summer have been ordered to be resettled permanently in eastern ^{and} Siberia. ^{Millions to} ~~They're to~~ stay there as workers in the industries that the

Soviets have moved -- a huge reshuffling of the Russian industrial system, shifting it eastward into the vast interior.

PLOT

The Nazis are blasting loudly about a plot - a conspiracy to kill Hitler. ~~They say that~~ They base this on what they call - "a sensational document." This, they claim, was found among the personal papers of former French Premier Daladier. The Nazi story contains a lot of rigmarol about Dutch Foreign Minister van Kleffens, being what they call - "the main wire-puller." The British secret service was in it too, and so was the French intelligence department. And the Nazi hullabaloo climaxes with the following statement:- "The cooperation and the complicity of Roosevelt was expected."

Plots to kill Hitler are an old story, spread by Nazi propaganda. I suppose they figure that the idea of their Fuehrer being assassinated is something to shock and horrify the world with indignation and alarm.

CHURCHILL

British Prime Minister Churchill today gave his official version and interpretation of the affair of the German fleet passing through the English Channel. Churchill told the House of Commons that the Nazi exploit, far from being a disastrous event, had actually improved the British position.

Churchill argues his case this way. He said that while lying in the French harbor of Brest the Nazi battleships were a very real danger to the British trade routes in the Atlantic. Back in German harbors, they won't be such a perilous menace. Moreover, they were damaged -- in the melodramatic voyage of battle through the English Channel. Churchill declared that the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were hit -- and hit so hard that they'll be definitely out of action for some time.

9 The Prime Minister gave some figures for the attacks that the R.A.F. made on the Scharnhorst

and Gneisenau during their months in the French harbor. He said that four thousand tons of bombs had been aimed at the. The number of plane attacks, individual plane attacks, was three thousand two hundred and ninety-nine. He didn't attempt to make clear the amount of actual damage that all this bombing had inflicted on the two battleships! But it wasn't enough to keep them from running the English Channel.

Churchill told the House of Commons that a secret inquiry has been ordered to determine why the Nazi vessels had not been sunk as they fought their way through Britain's favorite waters -- the Channel. He said the inquiry would determine whether or not the R.A.F. had been negligent in not spotting the German flotilla sooner and in not attacking it with more effect.

The Prime Minister talked mostly about the

affair of the German ships, but he did ^{again} refer to Singapore [^] in sombre tones; ~~He didn't try to gloss over the situation in the Far East,~~ and admitted that more defeats might be in prospect.

The grim and stocky Prime Minister faced a parliament bristling with complaints and criticism. For the most part the M.P.s attacked Churchill's government, rather than Churchill himself. Yet, some shafts were aimed at him, with one labor member saying: "There is in this ^{country} ~~court~~ [^] and in this house at present -- a feeling that we have not got the right kind of person for direction of the war to a satisfactory conclusion."

Churchill faced the criticism ^{firmly} ~~defiantly~~ [^]. He said there might be some changes in his cabinet -- later on. And he indicated that he ^{would} ~~did~~ [^] not yield to demands for the appointment of a Minister of Defense -- such a minister to exercise one man control of the war. To complete his defiance, Winston Churchill is demanding a vote of confidence, and no doubt he'll get it.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt today made some remarks on the possibility of enemy attacks against New York, Detroit and Alaska. At the White House news conference, the President spoke strictly in terms of possibilities. As for the bombing of American cities, he gave his opinion that under certain conditions enemy bombers might ^{even} raid Detroit. Similarly, under certain conditions, ~~an~~ enemy fleet might come in and shell New York. As for Alaska, he said he 'couldn't give any assurance that an attack on our northern possession could be immediately repelled.

Earlier in the day, a couple of Senators joined in stating that the coasts of this nation were - "practically defenceless." ^{Hiram} Johnson of California made that remark about our Pacific coast, and Walsh of Massachusetts said that the same thing applied to the

Atlantic and the Gulf - "practically defenceless."

Let us hope that we can take all of these
ominous remarks in the sense that President Roosevelt
made his - as possibilities under certain conditions.

CARIBBEAN

The biggest of U-boat hunts was on in the Caribbean today. This with the suspicion that the submarine attack on the Dutch Island of Aruba might be followed by an attempt against the Panama Canal.

TP The Dutch authorities say that at least seven oil tankers have been torpedoed - possibly more. It is believed that at least one U-boat was sunk - in the bombardment of the Dutch island. And the others of the Nazi flotilla, are being hunted by incessant patrols of United States warships and bombers. There's some suspicion that the attack on Aruba might be a feint to divert American forces from the Panama Canal - the Nazi commanders planning some sort of attempt against that vital waterway.

~~Further north, along our own Atlantic coast,~~

~~a big American tanker was damaged by three explosions~~

SPIES

7
In New York there's an Irishman named Morrissey. He's a janitor, and there are a few things he doesn't know. Until today, Morrissey was ignorant of the meaning of the initials "F.B.I.", what they stood for. However, Morrissey does know about the business of janitoring - all about the furnace in the basement, how it works and the tricks it will play.

At the same time, there ^{were} ~~are~~ several smart individuals who also had their points of ignorance - things they didn't know. They were officials at the German Consulate in New York, Nazis who were onto all the wily ways of diplomacy. But, they were simple-minded as infants about the furnace in the basement. The one that Morrissey knew so well.

Briefly - Morrissey, the New York Irishman, was the janitor of the building occupied by the German Consulate, and they frequently burned secret documents

in his furnace. They'd bring down stacks of confidential papers, and then watch carefully while Morrissey shoveled these into the fire.

The story was told today at the spy trial going on in New York. Among the evidence presented against the defendants are a number of secret messages, which officials of the German Consulate thought they had safely burned. And today on the witness stand Janitory Morrissey explained -- how come. When, in the presence of the sharp-eyed Nazis, he shoveled the heaps of papers into the furnace, he crammed them in in such a way that they would choke off the draft. He jammed them in such fashion that the air was cut off, and they wouldn't burn to any extent. You've got to understand the science of the basement furnace to do that.

Then, the momenty the Nazis would leave, Morrissey would shovel out the papers, hardly more than scorched. And thereby he salvaged a huge lot of secret diplomatic stuff -- including spy secrets.

Today on the witness stand Morrissey said:
"I turned them over to the Federal Bureau of ---
whatever you call it," The Federal Bureau of
Investigation, Brother Morrissey, but we'll forgive
you -- even if you should think that F.B.I. stands
for "Funny But Interesting."

The testimony related that on one occasion
Morrissey saved from the furnace and delivered to the
F.B.I. such a lot of documents that he had to cram
them into an onion sack to transport them. The kind
of sack might be taken to signify that Morrissey
knows his onions -- when it comes to furnaces.

And s-l-u-t-m.