

L.T. SUNOCO - Monday, January 12, 1942

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

The War Department hasn't much to tell us tonight. The evening communique says nothing about General MacArthur and his armies in the Philippines.

*In fact*

Most of the communique is devoted to a report from

the Commanding General of the Hawaiian Department,

*telling us*

that fifty-five of the soldiers wounded in the ~~sneak~~

*Pearl Harbor*  
Japanese attack on December the seventh have recovered

and returned to ~~tx~~ duty. That's fifty-five out of

three hundred and ninety-seven. The others are

expected to recover soon.

Then the War Department tells of the loss of an army transport in Alaskan waters, the Clivedon, destroyed by fire, both ship and cargo a total loss,

but no lives <sup>lost.</sup> ~~all the personnel safe.~~ The army  
officers are investigating the ~~source~~ source of that fire.

So ~~about~~ the Philippine campaign we know

nothing more than we were told before noon today, which was that General MacArthur and his men had thrown back a tremendous attack of the Japanese in full force and that a heavy artillery duel is going on.

And The forces of the Netherlands<sup>s</sup> were standing off a succession of hard attacks from the Japanese all day. They were fighting stubbornly at Tarakan and Minahassa on the <sup>large</sup> island of Celebes, with American and Australian planes sharing in the air attack on Japanese vessels.

They shot down four Japanese planes over Minahassa <sup>making</sup> ~~and made~~ two direct hits on a Japanese cruiser.

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Dutch planes scored a direct hit on a Japanese cruiser <sup>near</sup> ~~off~~ Tarakan ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ off the coast of Borneo, and American-made bombers with Dutch pilots got two hits on Japanese transports at the same place. ~~Three~~

*also*

Three Japanese planes were shot down by Dutch fighters at Singapore.

*MENADA, a place*

Tokyo claims the capture of ~~Mindoro~~ ~~Mindanao~~ ~~an~~

*of some*

important ~~port~~ *ance* on the Celebes, also the surrender of

*island of*

the Dutch forces at Tarakan. But, ~~as we have heard~~,

the Netherlands High Command describes ~~the~~ fighting that

*still* is ~~going~~ on ~~still~~ at both places. Japanese air raiders

were machine-gunning towns on the island of Sumatra

across the Straits of Malacca.

A special communique reports that Admiral Hart, Supreme Naval Commander of the United Nations in the Southwest Pacific, has authorized correspondents to announce that he is now somewhere in the Dutch East Indies. He arrived there more than a week ago by submarine. Admiral Hart, you may recall, was appointed to the supreme command of the Allied Naval Forces because

he is a specialist in submarine operations.

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It appears now that the Japanese are so strongly entrenched on the island of Mindanao, where for years they've had a large colony, that they're using the port of Davao as a base of operations. It is reported from the East Indies that the attack on Tarakan was launched from Davao. There's no denying that, although the Dutch are still holding out according to their own communique, <sup>the</sup> ~~The~~ situation ~~there~~ is ~~extremely~~ grave. Tarakan was the source of oil so good ~~that~~ it could be pumped directly into the ships without going through a ~~xxx~~ refinery. <sup>And</sup> ~~The~~ wells <sup>there</sup> are good for eighty thousand tons a month. The British declare that the oil fields elsewhere have been destroyed so thoroughly that the Japanese can't get anything unless they drill fresh wells.

SINGAPORE - FOLLOW LEAD

Tonight the Japanese are still nearer Singapore. The British have given up Kuala Lumpur, also Port Swettenham on the coast, which is even graver news. The communique from Singapore tells of the British Empire forces withdrawing to a new line of defense thirty miles to the south of Kuala Lumpur, the capital of the Federated Malay States.

And the Japanese air force is raining bombs on the Singapore area.

REINFORCEMENTS - FOLLOW MALAYA

But we hear that reinforcements are on the way. We have been hearing that for some time, but tonight it sounds more definite.

Guerrilla detachments are now at work throughout the peninsula -- mainly in the state of Johore, and on north along the coast to the Japanese lines. Some in fact are operating behind the Japanese lines.

## SAMOA

The war has now overtaken Samoa, the group of islands that became famous when Robert Louis Stevenson wrote so many fascinating stories there, died and was buried on one of them.

They are mentioned today in one of the navy communiques. A small enemy vessel shelled the naval station at Tutuila, fourteen small shells fell, did no damage, but slightly injured three people.

## RUSSIA

In Russia the fighting hasn't been confined to the Moscow front and the Crimea. The Soviets announced today that their armies have broken through on the snow covered mountains ~~xx~~ of the Arctic coast. We also learn that on the central front the Reds have retaken an important rail junction on their mainline railroad from Viazma to Bryansk, southwest of Moscow. In this the Soviet Generals have outflanked the Nazi forces, seizing control of one of the main lines of communication. Their object there is to join up with another Red Army that is moving down from the north toward Viazma. The Red Army spokesman acknowledges that they took a big risk in that they pushed on east of a strong German army at Orel, which might have moved northward to cut them off. But, that the manouver succeeded, although the Russian line now bulges north of Orel. So now the Russians say they have their armies in two pincers formations which can be directed to close either on



Viazma or Smolensk. Also they have seriously imperilled the Nazi army holding Mojaisk due west of Moscow. That army at Mojaisk is now the spearhead of the German central front.

It's an uneven straggly line that the Red Armies have now carved out for themselves, with German bulges both to the south and to the north of them.

ADD RUSSIA

The evening communique from the Soviets tells us more about their break through the German line two hundred and fifty miles north of the Arctic Circle. The Nazi army in that sector is under the command of ~~General~~ General von Falkenhorst, the General who conquered Norway. And that seems to indicate Hitler considers it quite an important post. Everything had been quiet there for six months. Suddenly a division of Red soldiers trained to Alpine warfare took the initiative in the thick of winter, and under heavy fire scaled three different levels of steep cliffs, *They won* ~~to win~~ control of the range that commands the entrance to the Finnish port of Petsamo, a port free from ice all the year round. ~~We used to hear a lot about Petsamo when the Soviets attacked Finland in Nineteen Thirty-nine.~~

The late news from the Central Front in

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Russia is that the Red army has pushed ahead twelve miles <sup>more to</sup> ~~further~~ southwest of Moscow, ~~and~~ ~~xxx~~ recaptured ~~ed~~ thirty villages. ~~in the country around Maloyaroslavets.~~  
In the Leningrad sector the Soviet armies ~~have been~~ sweeping southwest-ward from Tikhvin ~~and~~ captured the headquarters of the Nazi General who commanded the Thirty-ninth army Corps. The Germans ~~xx~~ got out in such a hurry that the General even left some of his personal effects behind.

PROPAGANDA

Here are a couple of samples of the accuracy of the information given out on foreign radios about ourselves. For instance, Tokyo broadcasts a dispatch from Vichy which reports that, I quote:- "The United States has put its clocks one hour ahead since Friday, following the adoption of the measure by Congressional vote." *As we know,* ~~Of course, as we know,~~ the daylight saving law still has to be passed, the Conference Committee has not yet ironed out the differences between the Senate's bill which authorizes the President to use his own judgment in setting our clocks ahead up to two hours, and the House bill which gives the President no discretion and advances the time one hour flat.

Then here's another <sup>bit</sup> ~~bit~~ of propaganda, from Rome. The Fascist radio has been telling Italians that the citizens of the United States are feeling the impact of bombs on their cities. ~~There's another~~

~~sample of propaganda, and~~ <sup>} sample :- |</sup> here's a third. The radios of Berlin, Rome and Tokyo have all been telling the people of the Axis that factories all over the United States are shut down because of a shortage of labor and of ~~imports~~ imports from the Far East.

And, here's a touch of humor, or at any rate irony. The Berlin radio expressed utter fury because reports were sent out of wide-spread dissension in the high command of the German army.

EIRE

We have a statement today from Eamon deValera, Prime Minister of Eire. He wishes to deny that he is in any other country but his own. He used these words: "I am supposed to be somewhere else, and, in fact, in a number of different countries at one time. I am even supposed," he added, "to have <sup>crossed</sup> ~~XXXXXX~~ the Atlantic." Then he continued, "I <sup>have</sup> ~~xxx~~ been in my office every day for the past month and more. And I want to say emphatically that I have made no secret bargain of any kind with anybody. Eire," he added, "has the firm intention of not getting into the war if ~~they~~ can possibly avoid it." And then he said further, "We will avoid it unless we are attacked, please God." ~~hope,~~ he added, ~~"this puts an end to rumors."~~

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## MAYORS

The Mayors of the United States heard a grim prophecy today. And it came from a redoubtable source, Dr. Thomas Parran, Surgeon General of the United States, no less. The enemy will fight us with disease wherever possible, warned the surgeon general. Bacteriological warfare, he called it, meaning the spreading of *germs*, epidemics. It has been definitely planned, said Parran, and this kind of warfare can be as deadly as mustard gas or explosives. He urged the Mayors to begin at once to take every possible precaution, though he did not specify what kind<sup>s</sup> of germs the enemy will try to use. It will be all the more of a shock because, as Parran points out, for years we've taken pure water, safe milk, good sewers, for granted. We now need new safeguards.

All this the Surgeon General told to the Conference of Mayors at Washington. The Conference also

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heard from Secretary of the Navy Knox. Colonel Knox took occasion to warn us that Pearl Harbor won't be the only reverse we shall suffer. He pointed out that we must not expect dramatically favorable developments of triumphant American full-scale naval engagements in the Pacific in the near future. Distance, time, and the wide distribution of our naval forces are all against us.

The Navy, he added, is not idle. It will strike where and when we are ready, not before. But meanwhile we'll be hearing from it again and again when and where strategic considerations dictate.

Colonel Knox then told the Mayors that the Government hopes to keep the Atlantic seaboard free from what he calls substantial attack. "We will take the battle to the enemy, and bring it to him on his home ground," said the Secretary, repeating the pledge made by President Roosevelt.



The Chairman, Mayor LaGuardia of New York, told the Conference that the job of protecting vital utilities such as waterworks, electric light and so forth should be put up to the army. LaGuardia also told his fellow Mayors that in case of any emergency arising from an air attack, not a single city in the country has the equipment to take care of it. He asked the Mayors to urge Congress to hurry up with an appropriation of a hundred million dollars for civilian defense.

RECIPE

Here's a recipe for how to act in an air raid. It was invented by a little old lady in the Scottish lowlands and Malcolm MacDonald the Canadian High Commissioner told it to the Conference of Mayors today. "When the air raid warning sounds," the old lady said, "I take the Bible from the shelf and read the twenty-third psalm where it says: 'Yea, though I walk through the valley of death I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.' Then," continues the old lady, "I put up a wee bit of prayer. Then I take a wee drop of whiskey to steady my nerves. Then I get into bed and ~~put~~<sup>pull</sup> up the covers.

*she concluded,*  
And then, I tell Hitler to go to Hell."

~~Hugh, have you got a word for Hitler?~~

LOUIS

Two hundred and one men went across on the ferry from Manhattan to Governors Island, New York, today, to join the Army. Two hundred had to walk from the ferry to the Registration Office. The two hundred and first was met by a Colonel and a Major, put into a motor car, and driven to the Registration Office. In his retinue were fifty reporters, ~~xxxxx~~ photographers and newsreel men. They paid no attention to the two hundred. All eyes were on the two hundred and first. For he was a stalwart brown fellow named Joe Louis, heavyweight prize-fight champion of the world.

*TP* And so it was that ~~world.~~ ~~And so,~~ it took a Colonel, a Major, <sup>and</sup> ~~plus~~ fifty <sup>[also ex champion Jimmy Braddock]</sup> reporters and cameramen to see that one individual become a buck private in Uncle Sam's Army. (Whether the two hundred were accepted or not we don't know.) ~~But a~~

*a* bulletin was issued later in the day that Joe Louis had been accepted, passed all his tests both physical

and mental, and next Wednesday he ~~will~~ be taken to  
Camp Upton, Long Island, and put into a uniform. When  
an Army Captain registered ~~Louis~~ <sup>the Brown Bomber</sup> he put an ~~identifx~~  
identification tag around ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> neck. ~~Its~~ <sup>is</sup> number ~~was~~  
three hundred and seventy-four. That struck the eye  
of Louis' manager, Julian Black, who, of course, was  
present. And Black exclaimed: "Hurry up, Joe, I've  
got to get back to New York to put a couple of dollars  
on that number in the Numbers Pool." (Incidentally,  
Manager Black revealed that if three hundred and  
seventy-four should hit, ~~it~~ it would break every  
bookmaker in New York.)

No Colonel, Major or ~~Captain~~ <sup>Just</sup> an ordinary  
Private was allowed to take down all the biographical  
details about the champion ~~son~~, such as his name, his  
occupation, and so forth. <sup>A</sup> Incidentally, the private was  
reported as being decidedly nervous, far more nervous

than the champion, who went through the proceedings with his usual bored expression -- the same as when he fights. For the benefit of the cameraman the mediacl office examined the Champ no less than five times. An ordinary draftee is rushed through these proceedings in ~~xxx~~ twelve minutes. It took one hour and fifty-five minutes to register the heagyweight champion of the worl -- the chap who knocked off Giant Buddy Baier in less than three minutes the other night.

And now a vital message about national defense, from Hugh.