

MEXICO

L.I. - Linnoco Monday, May 25, 1942.

~~There is to be a~~ special session of the Mexican Congress <sup>called for</sup> Thursday morning, ~~at half past ten.~~ ~~It will~~

<sup>To</sup> act upon a special message from President ~~Avila~~ Camacho,

asking for a declaration ~~that Mexico is at war with~~

<sup>against</sup> Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. <sup>of</sup> A standing committee

of the Mexican Congress <sup>has</sup> arranged for a joint session

of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, and

President ~~Avila~~ Camacho will probably appear <sup>in person</sup> ~~himself~~

<sup>to</sup> ~~and~~ read his own war message. <sup>TP</sup> The prophecy from

Mexico City is that there will probably be two or three

days of debate, after which the Senate and ~~the~~ Chamber

will vote unanimously for war. ~~They will~~ <sup>to</sup> also put

special powers in the hands of the President for <sup>the</sup>

<sup>of</sup> ~~conducting~~ the war. <sup>TP</sup> The vote does not need to be

unanimous, <sup>it</sup> requires actually only a majority of a

quorum. A minimum quorum in the Chamber <sup>being</sup> ~~is~~ eighty-five,

and in the Senate only thirty.

RUSSIA

On the Russian front ~~there is~~ no let-up in the  
fury of the battle for Kharkov. A London broadcast in  
the German language told the people of Germany that their  
army had lost forty thousand dead and a hundred and  
twenty thousand wounded in the last few days of the  
fighting ~~with~~ the Red <sup>S</sup> Army.

The Berlin radio on the other hand declared <sup>S</sup>  
that three whole Soviet armies, four hundred thousand  
men, ~~were~~ surrounded, in a trap, being methodically  
~~annihilated~~ *— blasted to bits —*  
by bombers. ~~We have to recall that Nazi~~  
~~claims have been more or less consistently exaggerated~~  
~~in the last few months.~~

~~However,~~ The Moscow official communique  
admits that there was a strong German attack seventy  
miles to the south of Kharkov, and they acknowledge  
that the Red army there is on the defensive, also that  
the Germans did, at the cost of heavy losses, drive a

wedge in the Russian positions. However, the Red high command insists that it is holding its own. Marshal Timoshenko's troops are digging in, ~~and~~ consolidating the positions they won ~~away from the Germans~~ last week.

*So it's rather*  
~~As a matter of fact, it is~~ difficult to make  
out what <sup>is</sup> ~~has~~ really ~~been~~ happening ~~today~~ around  
Kharkov. Evidently it is a wild ~~to-and-fro~~ battle,  
~~a seesaw affair.~~

## BRITISH LABOR

There has been much talk of an upheaval within Great Britain's Labor Party. Quite a number of members ~~were~~ dissatisfied with the Party's policy, wanted to break up the war-time truce with the Churchill Government and become an independent party once more. There are several Labor members in the Churchill Government such as Major Clement Atlee, Secretary of State for the Dominions and Deputy Prime Minister, which makes him the Number Two man in the Cabinet. Among the Labor leaders who wanted to withdraw was Lord Strabolgi, a former commander in the Royal Navy and now Labor whip in the House of Lords. ~~Strabolgi~~ Strabolgi declared that the time had come when the British Labor Party must seriously consider withdrawing from the Government and forming a constructive opposition in Parliament.

The clamor came to a head at the annual conference of the Party today in London. The opposition lost by a huge majority. The Labor delegates voted to continue supporting the government by ~~a majority of~~ two million, three hundred and nineteen thousand to a hundred and sixty-five thousand. And that would seem to be a handsome majority in any ~~man's~~ country.

CHINA

An army of Japanese invaders is at the gates of  
*the walled city of*  
Kinhwa, ~~the~~ temporary capital of the Chinese Province

of Chekiang. The city has already been battered by

ceaseless bombings from Japanese planes, but the

*troops*  
Chinese ~~army~~ inside the wall are still resisting

stoutly. The ~~Japanese army there~~ *beseiging Jap army* is one hundred thousand

strong, says Chungking, but in a recent battle the

Chinese have killed five thousand of the invaders.

Saturday night there was a battle in the streets of Wuyi, southwest of Kinhwa, the Chinese fighting the Japanese from house to house, but finally the defenders were obliged to evacuate. The Japanese are pouring reinforcements into Chekiang Province.

They announce from Tokyo that this is ~~an~~ part of ~~a~~

*their*  
~~concerted~~ attempt to liquidate what they call the

"Chinese Incident."



STILWELL

The Japanese could be thrown out of Burma if a properly organized force of the United Nations armies were sent after them. That unequivocal statement was made by one who ought to know, Lieutenant General Joseph Stilwell, American Commander of the Chinese forces in Burma, and known to American Army men as "Uncle Joe." He demonstrated also why some of them call him "vinegar Joe", a title he got from his habit of expressing himself emphatically.

The Chinese and British in Burma took an unmitigated beating, said General Stilwell <sup>today which he</sup> ~~and he~~ intimated ~~that it~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~shouldn't~~ have happened. He used these words:- "We have been blind throughout this campaign. The Japanese drove the Chinese and British out with a force of only some fifty thousand men. However," he added, "the Japanese aren't super-men and if we ~~ex~~ go in there with a properly organized

force we can throw them out." He went on to admit that the Japanese have all the qualities required of good soldiers. They are tough, able to live on meagre rations, and ready to die. And then, said Uncle Joe:- "You cannot go up against them with a rag tag, bobtail collection of troops and hope to win."

Worst of all, he said, was the enemy's complete control ~~of~~ of the air.

General Stilwell denied the reports that he had had an exciting time escaping from Burma. Instead he said it was a tiresome trek. For twelve days they marched along jungle trails, for two days they floated on a raft down the Chindwin River, and for still more days they travelled over primitive roads. The only real danger they ran into on their way to India, said the General, was from a rogue elephant that threatened to attack them.

General Vinegar Joe Stillwell will go back to China after he



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has had conferences with the British high command at New Delhi and with American Major General Brereton, Commander of the American Air Forces in India.

## NURSES

The ~~big~~ thrill of the day is the story of the ten army nurses who escaped to Australia from Corregidor. Most of them were evacuated under ~~the~~ *heavy* ~~hot~~ fire of Japanese guns, ~~at least four times~~. One of them saw her list of patients grow from one to seven thousand. Nearly all of them had soldier sweethearts and lost them either through death or they were transferred <sup>when</sup> ~~to remote places~~ *somewhere*. <sup>These nurses</sup> ~~They~~ went through ~~would have~~ hardships that broke many a man during those last desperate days on Batan and Corregidor. Then

~~They~~ They escaped from Corregidor on the night of April Twenty-Ninth when the Japanese began the big push. ~~There~~ There were two plane-loads of them, ~~But~~ But one of the planes was damaged on Mindanao, ~~Island~~, where it had landed to refuel. Then followed a desperate fight, with the troops of Major General William Sharp of Mindanao holding off the Japanese until the bomber <sup>could take off while</sup> ~~took off and~~

the stranded nurses took refuge in the hills.

They finally landed in Australia after a flight of five thousand miles, in a Navy patrol bomber. The first thing they wanted when they landed was a square meal. And then, next, a hair-do, the first in four months.

A correspondent who knows them all, cables these words:- "Perhaps never since Florence Nightingale created their order, have women tended war wounded more gallantly than those ten United States Army nurses."

L.T. WELCH.

Whatever the needs of our armed forces, a lack of heroes is not one of them. The President today received another one, Lieutenant George Welch of Uncle Sam's Army Air Force. You will recall that he is the pilot officer who shot ~~down~~ down four Japanese planes over Hawaii on that black letter date, December Seventh.

Lieutenant Welch's Place was at Wheeler Field when the attack on Pearl Harbor came. In fact at that particular moment he was ten miles away. He drove the ten miles in almost nothing flat, and in no time at all he was up there in a fighter plane, with four thirty calibre machine guns, all going. For a few moments after he took to the air he sighted twelve Japanese planes. One of them, a dive bomber, he sent crashing into the sea. Lieutenant Welch then made the discovery that one of his guns was jammed and his plane had been hit several times. But he ~~ke~~ kept at it and blew another Japanese plane out of

the sky. His own craft was no longer safe so he returned to Wheeler Field for more fuel and repairs. While his gun was being fixed, another wave of Japanese planes came over and riddled his ship with bullets. But Welch took off anyway, shot down another enemy plane, and finished off a fourth which was heading out to sea. And that is why he went to the White House today, to receive the Distinguished Service Cross from the hands of the President.

## BRITISH FLIERS

This afternoon I happened to run into a picturesque group of British airmen, all veterans of the present war: - five fliers from four countries -- two from Canada with the rank of Pilot Officer and Flying Officer, who after going through the Norwegian campaign were based on the much bombed Mediterranean isle of Malta. And they had also carried out raids over the North African desert, and on Greece, Crete, Rhodes and other islands of the eastern Mediterranean.

In the party I also met a Welshman, a squadron leader, with a similar experience. And an English Flight Lieutenant who had fought against the Italians in Abyssinia and the Germans and Italians in the African desert.

On one occasion this Flight Lieutenant J.E.S. White's motor failed while he was flying over the Mediterranean. After parachuting into the sea he swam for four hours and finally got to Africa -- a deserted stretch of coast. Then he hiked for fifty



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miles across the desert, without food, and without water. He had discarded his clothes on that long swim. So the sun and wind, on his fifty mile hike across the desert -- well, you can imagine what he looked like. Eventually he was picked up by British desert patrols. Having no identification, and being rather swarthy anyhow, ~~xx~~ he patrols took no chances. They blindfolded him and took him through the front lines. There, of course, he was soon able to prove who he was.

The fifth member of this group here for a short holiday on their way to England, was an Australian-Squadron Leader Clive Robertson Caldwell: more handsome than anyone I can think of in the movies; very tall, hair grey above the temples, flashing eyes, and thirty years old. "Too old to be a fighter pilot," they had told him. Before the war he was an insurance broker in Sydney, Australia.

But too old or not, he is now an ace, with twenty enemy aircraft to his credit, and the nickname

"Killer Caldwell." On one occasion he and sixteen other British fliers, most of them Australians, ran into a flight of fifty-two German planes. The British lads shot down eighteen, and I believe lost only two of their own. Anyhow, this tall, thirty year old Australian, leader of a squadron of American-built Kittyhawks, shot down five German planes on that occasion. And that's part of the reason why they call Squadron Leader Clive Robertson Caldwell, "Killer Caldwell."

## FARM LABOR

Farm workers will have to be transported from place to place if this year's crops are to be harvested. In many parts of the country, says a committee of Congress, the crop seasons are just beginning and they will be wasted unless definite steps are taken to distribute farm hands. The result will be shortages in some places and surpluses in others.

This report was made by a special committee on defense migration. It recommends that the Government institute a central authority for not only placing farm workers but transporting them.

W.P.A. FOLLOW FARM LABOR

That report was made public only a few minutes before a special message to Congress from President Roosevelt, which also dealt with labor shortage. Mr. Roosevelt advised the Congress on the labor supply <sup>not only for the farms but</sup> for war industries in general, ~~not only on the farms~~. This advice accompanied his budget estimate for the W.P.A., <sup>in which he made a big</sup> ~~in that he made a spectacular~~ cut, <sup>ing</sup> slashed it from four hundred and sixty-five millions to two hundred and eighty-two millions. <sup>TR</sup> ~~odd~~. The need for a work relief program has been reduced by the extraordinary demand for workers in the war effort. Work relief, he said, will be confined to persons who by one circumstance or another cannot obtain employment either in war activities or <sup>other job places.</sup> ~~in other work~~. There are three million now unemployed but many of them will be hired in the next twelve months, and the President used these words:-  
"To meet labor shortages, the recruitment of workers

from every available source will be required and

possibly even organized migration in some instances."

*All of which bears out*  
~~that bears out and even expands~~ what the Congressional

Committee on defense labor migration said.

The President added:- "I cannot emphasize too strongly the need for industry to abandon prevailing practices of discrimination, racial and otherwise."

## GASOLINE

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There is an uproar among Congressmen over the proposal to ration gasoline all over the country. Senators and Representatives in the West and Middlewest object to having their constituents put under the same restrictions as the motorists in the Eastern states. For example, Senator Vandenberg of Michigan says his people are not convinced that rationing in the Midwest is either necessary or warranted just now. Vandenberg protests that half of Michigan depends upon the tourist business for its livelihood, and that will be wrecked.

Washington officials explain that in the Midwest it is not a matter of saving gasoline, but rubber. The only way to make people save their tires is to cut down on their gas.

Gas rationing was taken up at this morning's regular White House conference. Senator Barkley, the majority leader, said the federal agencies that are



investigating the building of a new pipeline have made considerable progress. There probably will be a statement from the White House quite soon about it.

## SANTA ANITA

One of the first sports casualties of the war was the great California race track at Santa Anita, owned by Bing Crosby and other luminaries of show business. Uncle Sam's army officers put the finger on horseracing, and the <sup>Santa Anita</sup> track, a beautiful park, has been used as an internment camp for Japanese.

Today it comes to light that although the Gees haven't been running at Santa Anita, the gamblers have been gambling as never before. It seems a lot of those Japanese evacuees had plenty of cash because they were farmers who ~~had~~ received considerable money for the sale of their farms and equipment. Arrived at Santa Anita, they found numerous methods for losing it - dice, black jack, chuck-a-luck, <sup>also</sup> books on the races at Agua Caliente in Mexico. The interned Japs went for the games with avidity but did not like losing. They complained, <sup>whereupon police</sup> ~~so the officers~~ raided the joint and found the professional gamblers thriving and the <sup>in victims</sup> ~~others~~ moaning.

## JUMP

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A lady and gentleman in San Francisco had a quarrel, as even couples in San Francisco will. But this was an extra tough one. As the lady couldn't get her own way, she said she would jump out of the window, their happy home being on the second floor. The husband, being a true American, let her have the last word and walked out of the house. But he did not go back to mother, he just waited in the street below.

The lady was as good as her word:- she climbed out of the window and jumped. But there was her husband to catch her. He must be a good catch because neither of them was injured.

To make the story complete, we ought to know what he said and what she said. But there the report ends.

~~Hugh, you are a married man, what would you say?~~

## PAJAMAS

The War Production Board today strode boldly into the very boudoirs of the women of the land. Announcing rhes for the making or robes and pajamas. No more leg-of-motton or ballon sleeves. And, pajamas must not be full and sweeping. Furthermore, they must not be made of wool.

A similar order willsoon be announced governing the making of robes and pajamas for men and boys.

And now Hugh.