

RUSSIA

L.I. - Sunoco - Fri, Apr. 17, 1942

Canada

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Soviet Russia today ordered a total mobilization of its human power - Russia's enormous human power - men, women and even children of a population of a hundred and ninety three millions. They are all being put to war tasks of working or ~~go~~ fighting - total mobilization against the spring offensive that Nazi Germany is about to start.

Red Army bulletins tell of heavy German attacks, air and land, but these were beaten back - and in some places the Russians staged successful assaults.

FRANCE

The recall of American Ambassador Admiral Leahy from Vichy, France, is officially described as for the purpose of consultation. President Roosevelt has notified our Envoy to the Vichy regime to return to Washington to consult personally with the leaders of our government over here.

Hence, the recall of Admiral Leahy does not represent a formal break of relations. That's the official version. Yet, it is quite clear that the return of our ~~Ambassador~~ Ambassador is a definite expression of American hostility toward Laval.

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With that pro-Nazi collaborationist assuming power, we respond with a ~~gesture~~ gesture that ^{is} the next thing to a formal break.

Ambassador Admiral Leahy will not return immediately for those consultations. His wife is ill, has had an operation - and he ^{will} ~~will~~ delay his departure from France until she has recovered sufficiently to travel. This will probably be several weeks hence. All of which is a sufficient commentary on the recall for consultation. Why summon a statesman home at this time, when he can't leave for several weeks?

Laval today presented to Chief of State Marshal Petain a list of the Ministers he has chosen. The names on the list are not revealed, but we hear that General Dentz is one of them. He's the French Commander who waged a campaign against the British in Syria, and Laval is supposed to be naming him as Minister of War.

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One important development is this. Admiral Darlan, whom Laval succeeds as Vice-Premier, becomes Head of the French armed forces ~~x~~ - military and naval. This has been previously announced, and today's contribution is the significant detail that Darlan, ~~xx~~ as Army and Navy Commander, will be responsible to ~~Rx~~ Petain - and not Laval. This may mean a great deal with reference to the French fleet, which is causing so much worry. We hear that Laval would like to turn the French warships over to the Nazis, and he could do so legally if Commander-in-Chief Darlan were placed under his authority. But Darlan is responsible to Petain, and the aged Marshal has no desire to let the Nazis get the French Fleet - so we are told.

Meanwhile, new anti-Nazi outbreaks are reported.

Incidents of ~~xxx~~ sabotage and terrorism ~~have occurred~~ in

northern France. And London reports that the Nazis are shooting

French hostages again - this in reprisal for attacks against

Germans during recent days, ever since the return to power

of ~~La~~ ^Xgal was announced.

R.A.F.

The British are bombing harder than ever. Today was the ~~sixty~~ sixth day of their non-stop air raids against the Nazis on the continent. The attacks were heavier than yesterday, when four hundred planes were bombing. Daylight raiding today - with "clouds of fighter planes" protecting the bombers. And the coast along the channel rocked with almost continual explosions all day.

MALTA

Today in London an island was decorated - not merely one hero, but a whole island of heroes. Malta - which has endured more than two thousand air raids. King George awarded to the people of that fortress the George Cross, a civilian decoration granted for supreme courage under fire. The monarch of the Kingdom of Britain cabled to the Governor of Malta, and said:- "To honor her brave peoples, I award the George Cross to the Island Fortress of Malta, to bear witness to a heroism and to a devotion that will long be famous in history. ^{said the King} "Praise" ^{that has been} ~~that has been~~ well deserved - after more than two thousand raids.

ITALY

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We have some later amplification of the story of a government shake-up in Fascist Italy. Mussolini is said to have ~~purged~~ purged the Fascist Party, removing hundreds of officials. These ~~are~~ are accused of such things as profiteering and dealing illegally in rationed goods - the black market. Other charges are still more significant - political. Many Fascist office holders have been purged because of being lukewarm ~~toward~~ toward Hitler's Germany - or even coldly hostile to the Nazis.

But ¹ the latest information states that Mussolini has been compelled to appoint the Prince of Piedmont as Commander of the Italian Army in Central and Southern Italy. The Prince is a member of the Royal House of Savoy, and is described as an opponent of the Nazis. The meaning of his military appointment to Army command is said to be this:-

Italian military circles are increasingly ~~indignant~~ indignant at the domination exercised by Hitler's military commanders in southern Italy, Sicily and Libya. They ^{are} ~~re~~ especially angry because complete

military authority in Italian Libya has been transferred to the

German Commander, Field Marshal Rommel. So by placing the anti-Nazi Prince of Piedmont in charge of Italian forces in Central and Southern Italy, Mussolini is trying to ~~appease~~ appease the growing resentment.

BURMA

The Chinese in Burma announced that they halted two powerful enemy drives today, and inflicted heavy losses on the Japs. The Chinese are fighting at a place called Yani, forty-nine miles north of their former stronghold - Toungoo.

On the British side, the Japs are pressing strongly against the great Burma oilfields, which the defending British ^{now} have devastated - scorched earth. Today's Burma dispatch states that out of eight thousand ^{wells,} ~~wells,~~ six thousand have already been wrecked - and the remainder will be blown up if the enemy continues to advance. So many thousands of oil wells ^{may sound} ~~would seem to be rather~~ surprising - an indication ~~perhaps~~ of the magnitude of the Burma fields. These, however, produce a rather low grade of petroleum.

Altogether, ^T the Burma situation ~~is~~ tonight appears no better than before. In fact, military observers in London regard the ~~prospect~~ prospects of the defense as - desperate.

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PHILIPPINES

Tonight's late bulletin from the War Department tells of an artillery duel at Corregidor. The guns of our Manila Bay forts and those of Japanese batteries on the nearby shore blazed ^{ing} away at each other. And the fire of our artillerymen was accurate - as usual. They ^{have} ~~ve~~ distinguished themselves for sharpshooting all through the Philippine fighting. Today the guns of Corregidor silenced three Japanese batteries. ^{And} That was a good reply to Jap stories that the guns of Corregidor have been blasted out of action.

The island fortress was bombed ~~against~~ again by flights of enemy planes. Their high explosives roared and our anti-aircraft batteries replied - one Jap warplane probably destroyed.

Fierce fighting continues on the Island of Panay. Tonight's War department bulletin states that eight thousand Japanese troops are reported to have landed yesterday - increasing their already overwhelming numbers. But the small force of defenders ~~are~~ are hitting back with stubborn resistance.

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Secretary of War Stimson stated today that the American and Philippine prisoners taken on the Batan Peninsula are being treated in accordance with the laws of war. The Secretary told a press conference that the Japs are abiding by the humane principles perscribed by the Geneva Convention - which laid down rules of conduct with reference to prisoners of war.

At the same time, the war department issued a statement about the numbers of prisoners we lost. The figure can't be precise because we don't know the casualties that occurred in the last hours of bitter fighting on Bataan. The War Department estimates that the Japs captured sixty thousand prisoners - American and Philippine soldiers and civilians. Thirty-five thousand American and Philippine troops. And there were twenty-five thousand civilians on the Batan Peninsula when it fell.

Here's something late, just in, a dispatch from United Press correspondent Frank Hewlett, who was at Batan until the very end. He ~~flew~~ flew in a bomber to Australia only this week. His story ~~begin~~ begins as follows:- "In the

last desperate showdown, the battle of Batan ended because
quinine pills ran out". He goes on to say that at the end,
ten thousand of the defending soldiers lay in two field ^{hospitals,}
~~nsopitals,~~ most of them seriously ill with malaria. And in
camps another ten thousand were out of action - with lighter
cases of malaria. All because ~~of~~ the supply of quinine ran
out, the drug that is absolutely necessary ^{to withstand} ~~against~~ malaria
in the ~~tropix~~ tropics.

Secretary Stimson at his news conference revealed
something the Army is doing in recognition of Philippine
bravery and loyalty. Hitherto, the Army Air ^{Corps} ~~Grps~~ has had a
ruling whereby all aviation cadets must be American citizens.
That excluded Filipinos, who are citizens of their own
commonwealth. But now the Air Corps regulation is being changed -
in their favor. Hereafter, Philippine citizens, as well as
American citizens, will be accepted as aviation cadets. The
Secretary mentioned not only the courage and loyalty that the
~~Filipinos~~ Filipinos displayed in the epic of Batan, but also
their skill and bravery as air fighters. Philippine pilots
distinguished themselves in the battles of the sky.

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SURVIVORS

The Navy gives no confirmation of a Japanese story about the rescue of American and British survivors of the Battle of the Java Sea. Tokyo propaganda broadcasts declare there are survivors, ^{who were} picked up by the Japs. Today in Washington the Navy stated that it had no authentic information on the subject.

We lost eight warships in the sea fighting that preceded the fall of Java. One of these was the Cruiser ^H Houston. We know that the loss of life was heavy, but we don't know about possible survivors.

The spokesman in Washington stated today that the Navy does not want to raise, what he called - "false hopes." But he added that it was possible that some ~~and~~ members of the crews of the American ships lost in the ~~sea~~ ^{Sea} of Java may have been picked up by the enemy.

MACARTHUR

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The latest on the question of General MacArthur is a bulletin from Australia stating that an important announcement will be issued shortly. General MacArthur will make a statement clarifying his ~~ex~~ position. And, he will give a list of the officers of his staff - the personnel of his supreme command.

The story from Australia says it is understood that MacArthur has received instructions from Washington defining the extent of his authority. And the forthcoming MacArthur statement will confirm this, saying - yes, his ~~juris~~ jurisdiction as Commander has been officially defined. If this turns out to be true it will end a lot of confusion and misunderstanding about the status of ~~Mr~~ MacArthur.

In Washington, Secretary of War Stimson called the ~~whole~~ whole thing - "a tempest in the teapot". He said MacArthur jurisdiction has amply been ~~for~~ confirmed. The General has about the same powers that were vested in British General Sir Archibald Wavell when ^{he} ~~it~~ was given supreme Command ^{of the} ~~of~~ United Nations in the southwest Pacific, early in the war -

the supreme command from which he speedily retired.

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And Secretary Stimson raised a question about the MacArthur spokesman in Australia who yesterday and the day before definitely stated that MacArthur had not received from Washington a ~~pa~~ proper certification of his authority.

The Secretary said he doubted whether the spokesman had been authorized to make any such statement. He added that he himself has been in frequent communication with the General, and that MacArthur had never raised any question of jurisdiction.

FLIERS

In the wilds of northern Australia, three American warplanes flying together were forced down, and nine American airmen found themselves marooned in the desolate wilds of the Never-Never Land. They were a long distance from nowhere, and it was four days before they were found - four days ~~xxx~~ deep in the desert wilderness. So what ordeal did they endure - what horror and hardship? Here's what one of the American fliers stated today - "we sure lived high those four days". They lived in fine style - opulent luxury, in fact. They never had a better time in their lives. The reason was that they had an Australian with them, a veteran of the back blocks who knew all about the wilderness. He was an expert at making the best of things in the Australian brush.

They had no food, ~~with them~~, but the Australian plainsman borrowed a rifle from an American, disappeared in the distance and presently came back with a Kangaroo and a big fat bird on the order of a turkey. One American by a lucky chance, happened to have a few fishhooks along. The Australian took him to just the right place in a nearby stream, *and*

In twenty minutes they caught twenty fish.

They broiled Kangaroo steaks and roasted the turkey.

58 1/2 The Australian gathered some peculiar leaves, wrapped the

fish in these - and cooked them at the camp fire. The

Americans declare that with fish cooked like that, you'd wish

every day was Friday. And so they luxuriated for four days,

and when they were picked up they were sorry. They wanted
to stay on and on, in the bush, just
as I might stay on and on - on the
air - if it were not for Hugh.

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