

FRANCE

P.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, April 14, 1942.

The latest on the subject of Laval is this:

The new Vice-Premier of the Vichy Government has just announced that he will follow what the dispatch calls "a-middle-of-the-road policy." Laval states that this policy will have two principal points - friendly relations with Nazi Germany and friendly relations with the United States. Which would certainly seem to be the middle-of-the-road between two extreme opposites. He said he hoped to make a formal peace settlement with Hitler which will guarantee the integrity of France and its colonial empire.

~~This is the first statement by the man~~
~~regarded as the Number One friend of Nazi Germany,~~
~~his first declaration since his appointment to power~~
~~early today.~~ *Laval going* He ~~goes~~^{ing} in as a result of Nazi pressure on Marshal Petain, ~~and~~ ^{ing} succeeded Admiral Darlan, who has also been regarded as pro-Nazi, but not enough to

74
please Hitler, apparently. ^H Inevitably, the United Nations are apprehensive, thinking that Laval as Vice-Premier of Vichy will mean still more collaboration with the Nazis, a lot more. There's worry lest he hand the French fleet over to Germany, or use the French North African colonies to give aid to Nazi General Rommel in Libya. Now he takes the "middle-of-the-road" and we will wait to see what that means.

, One thing is certain - it increased the likelihood of a break between Washington and Vichy. ~~Our Government has had assurances from Marshal Petain that the French will keep their fleet and won't help the Nazis in North Africa, but this guarantee has had little air of permanence all along.~~ Our relations with Vichy have been on a day-to-day basis, likely to change at any time, and it is hard to think of anything that could

make a change more probable than Laval's rise to power.

All this is the more emphatic because of the French reception of the American note with reference to the Free French forces. Vichy today formally rejected the latest note from Washington, and called it insulting. We told Vichy that we were recognizing the Free French wherever they were actually in power and stated that this was in the interest of the French people. That's what Vichy calls insulting.

BRITAIN

7

There was a big air battle over the English Channel today. Once again the R.A.F. struck at targets in Nazi-controlled territory; ~~They're~~ Stepping up the tempo of their bombing attacks - as Spring weather grows more favorable. Today's affair was a daylight raid, and the British planes were vigorously attacked by the Germans. ^{Resulting} ~~This was~~ in a lively dogfight above the Channel.

MUSSOLINI

Rome denies that Dictator Mussolini has
suffered a complete breakdown. The story emanated from
England and stated that the Fascist Duce is in such a
state of nervous collapse that he is unable to perform
the tasks of being a dictator. ^{that he} ~~He~~ alternates between
spells of deep dark depression and hysterical laughter.
This the Italian Radio counters by announcing that
Mussolini is in good health. So, ^{TP} Rome denies, but then
Rome would deny.

BURMA

The situation in Burma seems more threatening than ever, with a late bulletin telling that the Japs have driven a wedge between the Chinese and British armies.

The Chinese are on the east, across the valley of the Sittang River. The British are on the west, on a line across the Irrawaddy River. The Japs are said to have thrust north through the middle, driving a wedge between Chinese and British -- and threatening to outflank both.

AUSTRALIA

8
President Roosevelt today reaffirmed the powers of General MacArthur as supreme commander for the United Nations in the southwest Pacific. This was in response to news conference ^{queries} ~~questions~~ concerning Australian dispatches that ^{have} ~~are~~ ^{ed} ~~questioning~~ the extent of MacArthur's authority. The President's comment today was clear and sharp - MacArthur has the authority, the supreme command.

His air forces, meanwhile, are keeping up the explosive work of bombing the Japs in the Bismark Islands and in New Guinea. In the former place, an enemy ship was bombed by American flying fortresses, and there's a hint that it might have been a Jap aircraft carrier - sunk. In New Guinea, the Jap base at Lae was hit hard, and victories were scored over enemy fighting planes.

PHILIPPINES

Rather surprising news from the Philippines. a War Department announcement that American and Filipino forces have scored successes on ~~the island of Luzon~~ Luzon. ^{That} ^{completely} island of Manila and Batan, seemed to have been conquered by the Japs, but apparently American-Filipino bands are fighting a guerrilla war in the mountains, and today's army communique tells how they've been raiding enemy positions. And the same thing goes for that other Philippine island - Mindanao. There, one of our raiding parties ambushed a Japanese motorized column, and inflicted heavy losses.

On the island of Cebu, our small forces are battling against outnumbering Japs. And the War Department tells of heavy fighting. ~~Radio communication between Corregidor and Cebu has been resumed - after~~

The Army gives us new details about the sinking of an enemy light cruiser off the southern tip of Cebu Island several days ago. A speedy motor torpedo boat of ours struck the blow, and managed to escape through a hail of shellfire. After torpedoing the cruiser, the speed boat was fired upon repeatedly by a Jap destroyer, salvo after salvo, but the small boat dashed away.

SINKINGS

The Navy today released the story of a submarine cruise, and awarded honors. The undersea craft is that SEAWOLF, just ⁱⁿ ~~returned~~ ^{its} from a fighting voyage against the Japs in the southwestern Pacific. Who ~~are~~ the men honored? Why, in fact everybody. The entire crew of the SEAWOLF is cited for heroism - every man a hero. ^H The submarine, one of the biggest, was out for an amazing length of time, part of February, all of March, and early April - one of the longest cruises a submarine has ever made. That was the more remarkable, considering the region - equatorial waters. Meaning - warm waters. Submarines tend to get hot inside, even ~~when they get~~ up toward the Arctic. And equatorial waters are difficult even for short cruises - because the temperatures inside an undersea craft often rise to a hundred and twenty degrees.

The cruise of the SEAWOLF was hugely successful -

SINKINGS - 2

with the sinking of a ^{Jap} light cruiser, a destroyer, and
a large transport. Two more light cruisers damaged,
one probably sunk. And a couple of other vessels hit and
damaged. And the SEAWOLF was depth bombed incessantly
by the Japs - a series of hair-breath escapes. ^W Today's
Navy citation tells of one instance in which the
submarine ~~xxxxxxxx~~ assailed a powerful Japanese naval
force. The attack was pressed in what the Navy calls -
~~in~~ "extremely shallow and narrow waters, where very
strong currents existed, near the coasts of Java."
And there's a picture for you! Narrow waters, where the
sub couldn't go sliding away to one side or another for
any distance. Shallow waters - in which it couldn't dive
deeply to elude the depth bombs. Very strong currents -
pushing it around in waters where the coasts on both
sides and the bottom below, ~~are so~~ ^{were} much too near.

Another tale of heroism takes us to the Atlantic, ~~this~~^{our} side of the ocean where Nazi submarines are ~~attacking~~^{attacking} our ships. A couple of sinkings were reported today, and also the following story of a big naval patrol plane, that rescued survivors off Haiti.^{TP} There were seventeen survivors, sixteen men and a woman. They had been drifting for sixty hours for nearly three days on a raft, without a bite of food or a drop of water. They were sighted by the patrol plane under the command of Ensign Francis Pinter. His big Catalina flying boat was heavily loaded - five hundred gallons of gas, two depth bombs, masses of other gear - and a crew of seven men. They could hardly expect to carry much more - and there were seventeen survivors!^{TP} Pilot Pinter thought it was risky even to try landing, but he did. They picked up the seventeen survivors and piled them into the plane, jamming them in everywhere. Then, fantastically overloaded,

2

Pilot Pinter took off and succeeded in getting into the sky. Of course, he might have dropped some of his cargo of armament -- the two depth charges, in particular. They were ponderous and heavy. But he kept them. Why? He explains in these words:- "I hoped we might sight an enemy submarine cruising the windward passage." So he hung onto the depth bombs hoping to get a shot at a sub. He sure deserves official commendation -- and gets it.

SHOOTING MATCH

In Washington today Chairman May of the Military Affairs of the House of Representatives declared that he had been misquoted. That is - not misquoted entirely, but only to some extent. This referred to what the Kentucky Congressman had to say in advocating military execution for Admiral Kimmel and General Short - the officers who were Navy and Army commanders at Pearl Harbor when the Japs delivered their surprise attack. Congressman May was quoted as saying he'd be in favor of what he called - "a shooting match."

Today he qualified that by ^{explaining} ~~saying~~ that he'd advocate such an extreme measure only - "if and in case." He put it in the following words:- "What I actually said," explained the Congressman, "was that if after a full, fair and complete court martial they are found guilty of criminal negligence, resulting in the death of some thirty-four hundred, I believe ~~is~~ I'd favor

SHOOTING MATCH - 2

a shooting match." Which still sounds rather drastic -
even with the qualification. Great Britain shot an
admiral once for losing a battle, the ill-fated Admiral
Bing. - And, that has not stood ^{out} as one of the brighter ~~spots~~
spots in British history.

PAN-AMERICAN

President Roosevelt today gave some intimation concerning the question we ^{are} ~~are~~ all asking -- how long is the war going to last? The President was talking to the Pan American Delegation, which called at the White House as part of today's observance of Pan American Day. He told them that when this war is over, the nations of Latin America ~~xxx~~ will have a voice in planning the peace that will follow -- "a very great voice" said the President. He said he wa^s certain of victory, but added a caution in these words: "We are going to have a couple of years, perhaps three years before we can make sure." So that's a hint of the presidential opinion about the duration of the war -- a couple of years, perhaps three years.

And at today's White House Pan American talk President Roosevelt discussed a question that he raised last week -- the question of the right kind of name for the world-wide conflict. He suggested that to call it Second World War or World War Number Two did

not sufficiently convey the importance of the mighty clash. Last week he asked for suggestions for a new name. He's had a huge response to that, and today he stated his choice -- the name that he prefers.

Well, it's ~~an~~ interesting to note how wars in the past have been named. They ^{are} ~~are~~ usually called after one or more of ^{the} ~~the~~ countries that were engaged in them.

The ancient Greeks called their supreme struggle - the "Persian Wars." ~~We speak of our own "Mexican War" and the "Spanish American War."~~

Other conflicts were named after a dominating individual -- like the "Napoleonic Wars" or the "Campaigns of Alexander." Some conflicts have descriptive names -- such as our "Revolutionary" and "Civil" Wars. The same goes for the "Crusades" and ^{"the War of the Roses."} ~~the "French Religious" Wars.~~ In many cases the clash of arms didn't get a name until after it was over. This is obviously true of such time element names as the "Hundred Years' War", ^{and} the "Thirty Years' War".

~~the "Seven Years' War" and the "Seven Weeks' War."~~

I suppose the most curious name of all is that of the British-Spanish affray, ^{a couple of hundred years ago,} called the "War of Jenkins' Ear". So called because the cutting off of the ear of a British sea captain helped to cause it.

The Presidential call for a name to suit the present conflict has caused a lot of discussion. I, myself, have received a stack of suggestions from the radio audience. And here are some typical examples.

Most popular choice is - "Liberty War". This ^{also} was the first suggestion the President received, and it's echoed by Roy Kennett of Dayton, Ohio and B.C. Chappelle of Delaplane, Virginia.

Marion Warner of West Springfield, Massachusetts, proposes "Victory War."

Mrs. Charles Shangle of Kingston, New Jersey, thinks it should be called - "War for Democracy".

Chris King of Wilmington, Delaware - "War of World Liberation."

~~Arthur Steddom of Circleville, Ohio - "War for Human Rights."~~

~~Harry E. Green of Dayton, Ohio - "War for World Civilization."~~

Colonel Williams Bamford of Belmar, New Jersey,
"War for World Equity."

William Wade of Cleveland, Ohio - "War of Destiny."

Ethel French of Columbus, Ohio - "War of Retribution."

7
And now to that list let's add President Roosevelt's choice. He gave it to members of the Pan American Delegation today, and here it is -- "The War of Survival." In explanation the President pointed out that the dominant issue of the conflict is the survival of democracy, the survival of our civilization.

BASEBALL

The effect of war on the opening ~~day~~ of the baseball season was visible in Washington today - or rather, invisibility is the word. The President wasn't visible at the game - ~~he~~ wasn't there. It's traditional custom for the President of the United States to toss out the first ball at the season's first game in Washington, and F.D.R. is a baseball fan. Today, however, the pressure of war activity kept him away, and Vice-President Wallace threw the first ball.

That much of it was unusual. The rest of it was exceedingly ordinary, the New York Yankees beat the Washington Senators, a shut-out, seven to nothing. In other words, the Yankee steamroller got off to a quick and impressive start.

Two other teams called for attention, the Brooklyn Dodgers and St. Louis Cards. Experts are

BASEBALL - 2

St. Louis beat Chicago, a shut-out -- three to nothing. The Dodgers won, defeating the mighty Hubbell -- seven to five.

DIVORCE

It's a common thing for wives to complain about the behavior of husbands, and sometimes you can't blame them. Take for example, the story told by a lady in a San Francisco court today. She's described as socially prominent, an heiress in fact.

Wifie today told how she and hubby had a quarrel, and this happened while wifie was in the bathtub. The argument ended in startling fashion, when hubby seized the heiress, lifted her out of the bathtub and carried her out of the front door, and left her there on the front porch. He went back into the house, locking the door after him. And there was wifie, dripping wet on the front stoop -- shivering and so embarrassed. It isn't revealed what the neighbors said. I'll bet they had something to talk about for a month. The dripping heiress finally got back into the house, through the back door.

Apparently she never quite got over it, ~~and~~ as was explained in court today by her mother, who said

that incidents like the bathtub outrage transformed her daughter -- "from a happy-go-lucky girl to a quiet, solemn little woman", said mother.

And now a young man who is neither quiet nor solemn. Meaning you, Hugh.