

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1943.  
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*Lannon*

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Japanese are making a desperate effort to hold onto their positions in New Guinea. Their garrisons on the island are growing weaker with the Australians and Americans gradually cutting them down. But a new Japanese convoy is heading for New Guinea. Over the weekend, the Allies caught sight of it, and bombers went to head it off. American Flying Fortresses and Liberator bombers got four of them, sinking one of four thousand tons - a tanker. Another, an eight thousand ton transport, probably carrying troops, was left ablaze.

## ALEUTIANS

Our airmen have been bombing the Japs in the Aleutians again. They bombed Kiska Saturday evening and also flew down low and strafed the enemy with machine gun fire. The eighth time this month they have hit the Japs at Kiska. And, Munda in the Solomons was bombed for the ninety-second time. Also a Jap ship was destroyed in the Solomons.

CHINA FOLLOW JAPAN

The Chinese have really good news to tell about their own fight with the Japs. The Nipponese drive into the northern part of Hunan province has collapsed, so they report. The Chinese made a fierce counter-attack; inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy, and recaptured ~~at~~ some seven towns in the last twenty-four hours.

The Chinese report the invaders are falling back and are being pursued toward the Yangtze. With a possibility that the Nipponese may be trapped.

The Japs are still in possession of Hwayung, the important base on the northern shore of Lake Tung Ting which they stormed last Wednesday.

## RUSSIA

The Russians in the south tonight are being hammered on a front a hundred and twenty miles long. Those twenty-five German divisions that the Nazi high command threw in are straining every nerve and every resource to get back to the Donets River. That German army of twenty-five divisions is commanded by Colonel General Hoth, a specialist in tank fighting. He has thousands of tanks to work with and is using everything he has to break through to Belgorod. If he does, he will once more cut the important railroad running north to Kursk and Orel.

The Soviets don't admit that the Germans have recaptured Kharkov. But military experts in London fear the Nazi claim is true. Moscow communique admits that their soldiers have fallen back to new defense lines.

Further north, the Russian position is growing better all the time. There five columns are threatening the German front line which runs from the railhead at

Nikitinka to Velmya to the main railroad,  
Moscow-Vyazma-Smolensk. The Russians also report  
that they have recaptured several dozen planes west  
and southwest of Vyazma. So in that part of their  
country they are driving ever closer to the big goal,  
Smolensk.

## GUERRILLA

On the eastern frontier, in France six thousand French patriots are holding out against Vichy police and Nazi troops. Laval sent them an ultimatum with a deadline, but they ignored it. The terrain where they are holding out near the Swiss border is rugged and ideal for defenders.

The word is that they have dug in near Lake Geneva, also that they are well organized and well officered. A General Cartier is in command. Some of the officers are from the Twenty-Seventh Alpine Regiment, formerly one of the crack units of the French Army. Allied planes have been dropping them guns and ammunition every night. And they now have machine guns, French seventy-fives, and hand grenades -- in large quantities. Radio Algiers reported today that the Guerrillas have shot down three German planes that were sent to bomb them.

## AFRICA

In Tunisia over the weekend the British tried an attack that didn't come off. They were trying to improve the Allied defense positions in the Tamera region. Infantry, supported by tanks and guns, attacked the Germans on a ridge that overlooked the Allied lines at Tamera. The Allies fought their way to the northern part of the ridge. When they got there they were greeted by such a fierce fire from heavy machine guns and mortars, that the advance was proving too costly. So the British retired to their original lines.

Observers have noticed something going on behind the enemy lines, perhaps regrouping their forces in central Tunisia, getting set to attack from there -- perhaps.

Virgil Pinkley of United Press, reports that General Montgomery may be about to attack. The British Eighth Army seems to be getting in shape for an attack in force which may accomplish the final downfall of Rommel.

FRENCH

Secretary Hull today made an even more important announcement concerning the French government in Africa. He told the newspapermen that General Giraud, the high commissioner, is bringing all the groups in Africa together, behind himself as military leader. This was Secretary Hull's comment on the speech Giraud made on Sunday at Algiers, the speech in which he held out the olive branch. General DeGaulle's comment in Lond was he hoped what Giraud ~~xx~~ said would soon be translated into action -- at Algeirs, Casablanca and Dakar.

Thereupon, late today, General Giraud announced publicly that he is ready to receive a visit from General ~~xxxxxxxx~~ DeGaulle and will try to make an agreement with him to bring about world wide unity among the Franch.



HULL

And Secretary of State Hull <sup>today</sup> announced

that the United States has invited Russia and China to join us in conversations over the problems of war and peace. He meant conversations like those now going on with British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

Such conferences, he said, will establish a complete understanding between the Allies, the understanding essential to every stage of the war and peace. These not to interfere with the general conferences between all the United Nations which will be held eventually.

Secretary Hull went on to say that the United States will benefit a great deal by having full and elaborate exchanges of information and opinions with all the Allies. The secretary made this idea public after having had a conference with Captain Eden.

The British Foreign Secretary lunched with Navy Secretary Knox and high ranking admirals today. This was the second time he met Secretary Knox. Anthony Eden also had a chat with Vice President Wallace this morning.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

I happen to be broadcasting from a huge banquet, in Boston tonight. This dinner is the finale to a series of sessions attended by persons from a number of countries, all of whom are interested in Latin-American affairs. It's called The Inter-American Institute, sponsored by Boston University, and under the auspices of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in Washington.

Sponsored by Boston University, not Harvard University, even if Harvard is about the oldest university in this western world, and is here in Boston.

DR. CARBAJAL: I beg your pardon, Dr. Thomas. I hope you won't mind if I correct you. Harvard is not the oldest university in the western hemisphere. That honor goes to my alma mater, the University of San Marco, in Lima, Peru. It was founded in 1551.

L.T.:- That's quite all right, and many thanks.

That by the way, was Dr. Fernando Carbajal, a distinguished Peruvian who was made a Doctor of Science here today, along with with Sumner Wells and others who received degrees.

DR. FONCHEZ: Now, now Dr. Thomas. Don't take my friend Carabjal too seriously. His university at Lima, is not the oldest in the western world. My university, the University of Mexico, is the oldest, It has been in existence since 1545.

L.T.:- And that interruption came from Dr. Rudolfo Fonchez, president of the great National University of Mexico. 1545! Why, that was only fifty-three years after Columbus discovered America!

GOV. SALTONSTALL:- As a matter of fact, they are both right, Dr. Thomas. President Marsh of Boston University has just been telling me about the friendly rivalry between these two distinguished gentlemen.

L.T.: How can that be, Governor Saltonstall?

GOV. SALTONSTALL:- Well, the explanation is that the University of Mexico did get going in 1545. But it didn't get its charter until six years later, and then the University of San Marco and the Peruvians, got the jump on their neighbors by getting ~~xxxx~~ their charter <sup>from Spain</sup> sixty days earlier. So they both officially got under way in 1551.

L.T.: Many thanks, Governor Saltonstall, for clearing it up. And here's something that will interest everybody, I'm sure. Juan Trippe, head of Pan American Airways, received a degree here at Boston University today, and in a talk afterward he told us that within a year after the war it will take less time to fly from Boston or New York to Rio or Buenos Aires than it now takes to go to Chicago by train -- and in planes with sleeper accommodations, carrying one hundred and fifty passengers.

So it's about time we held more of these

## EARTHQUAKE

Somewhere south of the Equator there has been an earthquake. The needle on a seismograph here in Boston, has been wobbling wildly. Scientists here estimate that some seven earthquake shocks have occurred in the past twenty-four hours, in regions from four thousand to nine thousand miles away from Boston. They believe in Peru, and the South Pacific.

I hope not severe in Peru, Dr. Carbajal; and, that you will not find your home or your oldest University in the Americas damaged when you return to Lima.

HOOVER

Former President Hoover is again in the news with suggestions as to how the Allies can establish a lasting peace. He addressed the legislature of his native state today. The occasion was a conference in Iowa, of corn belt governors, a conference to discuss farm manpower and farm machinery. The former president made three points:

First; disarming the enemy. After Versailles, he declared, the Allies neither disarmed the enemy nor armed themselves. Furthermore, instead of punishing the enemies' leaders, the Allies punished their people. So, for one thing, he declared that while the world is changing back from a war to a peace basis, the Allies will have to suppress the forces of disintegration and renewed aggression -- and do it by military's force.

Secondly, he said, we must not be in such a hurry as we were after the last war. "There should be no general peace conference, no armistice," was the way he put it, " During the last Armistice, the Allies

tried to solve a hundred problems all at once," said Herbert Hoover. And then he suggested that the United Nations ought to impose a conditional peace, settling first the most urgent problems to establish political order and get the economic life of the world going once more and allow the world spiritual recovery.

The former President took a gloomy view of our own prospects <sup>here</sup> on the home front. The administration price control, he declared, so far from keeping down inflation, is definitely strangling both production and distribution of food. Also too much man power has been drained from the farms. He said that was what happened in Germany in Nineteen Seventeen and Nineteen Eighteen. The Germans took farm labor into the Army and said the farms could be worked by women, and children and people from the city. But it didn't work. And the decline of German food production was largely responsible for the collapse in 1918. Now he



thinks we are repeating the German mistakes. Not enough farm machinery, not enough explosives, not enough help.

"In traveling about," he went on, "I find from five to ten different federal agencies operating in each state, agencies which in some degree affect the farmer."

So reported the man who was Food Administrator in 1917 and 18. "Agriculture," he said, "should rank with munitions, And he added that the method of price control now in use is ancient and inefficient.

CRAWFORD

At the other side of the country, the president of the National Association of Manufacturers was also talking post-war. Frederick C. Crawford , speaking at Dallas, Texas, declared that trade barriers would have to be abolished. If they are not, he said, there will be another war within twenty or thirty years. Crawford then proposed an addition to the Four Freedoms of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill. We want a fifth freedom, he said, -- a freedom to risk our money and lose it.

## BOY

A couple of months ago, the country was amused by the story about the fifteen year old boy who had become a sergeant in Uncle Sam's Army. Which made him, as we thought, the youngest sergeant in any man's army. I remember relating to you with much gusto the tale of Johnny Maras of Milwaukee who had been honorably discharged when his colonel found out he was only fifteen. Today, and I'll tell it with considerable less gusto, the story turns out to be -- well, today that same Johnny Maras is on his way to Fort Sheridan, Illinois under military arrest, charged with desertion. It's a sad story.

It seems that Johnny never rose to the rank of Sergeant at all. Those stripes which he so proudly showed when he arrived home in January, he had himself sewn on. Then he told that story -- and it went over big. In fact business men's groups and civic organizations gave him banquets and parties. A movie company took him to New York and gave him a

grand time, getting a bit of publicity for a film of course. Yes sir, and the General Charles King Post of the American Legion in Milwaukee had planned a party for Johnny tonight. They were going to admit him to full membership in the legion, as an ex-service man. Then came the disclosure today that Johnny ~~is~~ not only had never been a sergeant but that he did not even have leave to go away from Camp K lmer, New Jersey, where he was in training. He just went A.W.O.L. gave himself a promotion, became something of an overnight hero -- and now fifteen year Johnny is under arrest as a deserter -- and presumably a sadder, wiser lad.

MARTHA RAYE

Screen fans will be pleased no doubt to hear that Martha Raye is now more than a movie star. Martha is of today a Captain in the Army. It's an honorary commission that goes to her because of the fine job she did for the lads overseas when she went to Britain and North Africa. Giving the troops a touch of laughter, singing to them, and stepping up their morale, She gave so much of her time that now she gets not only a commission but some service decorations.

Martha was bombed several times, once when a bomb landed on the hotel next to hers, and hurled her out of bed. In Africa, when he was bombed she lost all her clothes and had to borrow a pair of pants and a shirt from a soldier until she could get some clothes from England.

On another occasion she had to remain three days and nights in a trench with some two hundred soldiers, being bombed all the time. She also went through a bout of yellow fever. Altogether, Captain

MARTHA\_RAYE - 2

Martha Raye seems to have had a close-up look at  
World War Two.

And S-L-U-T-M.