

SOLOMONS

L.I. - Sunoco. Wed., Feb. 3, 1943.

Tonight's Navy communique states that the naval and air engagement in the Solomons is continuing. Both sides have suffered losses, with a Navy spokesman stating that no announcement of these will be made until we can also disclose the damage we have done to the Japs. The spokesman states: "We have some information regarding losses that we think is accurate, but our policy is that, until we can make a simultaneous release of losses ^{on} ~~by~~ both sides, we will have to hold off."

The Navy bulletin indicates that the fighting is in the nature of a huge skirmish, with the pitched battle yet to come. No powerful concentrations of warships have clashed thus far. There are innumerable scattered engagements over an immense expanse of sea and islands - plane against ship, plane against plane. The Navy indicates that no Japanese carriers appear

to be in action. The enemy planes in battle are land-based - flying from airfields the Japs have established on various islands in the Solomons.

The engagement is developing, heading apparently for a clash of battle between heavy forces. This is indicated by the following statement from the Navy spokesman, "It is perfectly safe to say that the Japs are trying their best to take Guadalcanal," said he.

The picture is one of immensity - innumerable ships and planes steaming and flying in mazes of strategic maneuver. The Japs - developing what they plan to be a powerful blow toward Guadalcanal. Our forces - moving and thrusting to check them. And always that mode of battle so familiar and heroic in the southwest Pacific - planes attacking ships, planes attacking planes.

Earlier in the day, Secretary of the Navy

Frank Knox described the action in words that the subsequent Navy bulletin confirms: "A reconnaissance in force," said he, "Any assumption," he added, "that a tremendous battle is in progress at the moment, is incorrect."

The Secretary went on to talk about ground fighting on Guadalcanal. He said something new was happening - Japs are surrendering. And this theme of Jap surrender is expanded ~~from~~ from a report of a United Press Correspondent, Robert C. Miller ^{who} ~~he~~ tells how a group of shabby enemy soldiers walked to the American lines - their arms raised. Made prisoners, they were fed with plenty of rice and given American clothes to replace their rags, and one of them talked. A Jap named Hasamoto said: "I will never return to Japan. I am disgraced because I surrendered."

Then he told why he did: "My actions," said

he, "were prompted primarily by thoughts of hot food, tobacco and ~~the~~ relief ^{from} ~~of~~ the unending shelling."

He said the Jap food ration on Guadalcanal had been reduced to three-tenths of a pint of rice a day, plus some meal made of soy beans. And every ten days each Jap received a small can of vegetables. Often they got no rations at all. The party that surrendered had not eaten for five days - and always they were under shellfire.

"Finally," says the prisoner Hasamoto, "my feelings as a true Japanese soldier disappeared. I was despondent beyond hope." Such is the Jap's analysis of the state of mind that persuaded ^{him} ~~xxxx~~ to surrender.

Tonight's Navy communique tells of American advances on Guadalcanal. In one sector, they pushed across a river toward a landing place ten miles west of Henderson Field - a section of beach that the Japs used for bringing in reinforcements.

DESTROYER

This is the story of - baby. The infant is a United States destroyer, the name of which is withheld. All we know is that the boys of the crew fondly call their craft - baby.

The little tot is credited with playing an exceedingly grown-up part in the sinking of a Jap destroyer, cruiser and battleship. It happened in one of the battles of the Solomons a little while back.

The child made a mistake, steered the wrong way, and accidentally got at close quarters with three Jap warships. Baby should have ended its young years right there - under the fourteen inch guns of ^{the} battleship. How was it possible to escape? ^{Why,} ~~But~~ the fresh kid never thought of that. Baby sailed right in, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ matching its juvenile guns against the mighty cannon and firing torpedoes. She delivered heavy blows against the destroyer, cruiser and battleship - which were sunk

in the clash of fleets. The battleship had already been crippled by other American warships, and the crew of the frisky little one are convinced that she finished off the giant - some baby!

RUSSIA

Moscow reports rapid Red Army advances toward the three major goals of the Soviet offensive. Russian troops have captured a railroad center only forty-three miles from Rostov, the key to the Caucasus, and this deprives the Nazis of their last ^{Caucasus} railway junction. ~~the Caucasus~~. The Germans in that area are in immediate danger of being cut off from all retreat, and London reports that the Nazi high command is getting its troops out of the Caucasus as fast as it can - but how many ^{they} ~~he~~ will be able to extricate is a question.

Further north, the Russians have seized an important railroad point only sixty-five miles from Kharkov, which ^{was} ~~is~~ one of the greatest industrial centers of the Soviets.

Up toward the Moscow area, a Red Army thrust has cut the railroad twenty-three miles north of Kursk, ~~which is~~ another Number One objective in the continuing Soviet offensive.

STALINGRAD - GERMAN

The way the Nazis are acting about the news from Stalingrad is something for puzzlement and wonder. Today, the German high command announced officially what Moscow stated yesterday - that the Nazi forces at Stalingrad have been wiped out. And this bad news was broken in an astonishing way. It was broadcast by the Berlin radio, and ~~was~~ followed by music. What kind of music? The funeral march from the opera "*day* Gotterdaemmerung", some of the most tragic and mournful music from Tristan and Isolde and the German soldier song, "I Had A Comrade." At the same time, all theatres and places of amusement were ordered to be closed until Saturday, as a sign of national mourning because of Stalingrad.

That the catastrophe on the Volga should be gloomy news to tell in Germany is not surprising - but why does Nazi propaganda dramatize it with such

lugub^rerious showmanship.[?] In the past it has been Hitler policy to play up war tidings with theatrical blarings on the radio - but those were tidings of victory. Now, the defeat is emphasized in ^{a way just as} ~~a similar~~ spectacular way - with that sombre Wagnerian funeral march. And what could be more depressing to the Germans than to hear the black news followed by the tearful despair and surging heart-break of the music of Tristan? Not to mention the words of the song - "I Had A Comrade?"

One wonders what the Nazis are driving at with that kind of propaganda. Of late, they have been not only outspoken ^{about} ~~with~~ their misfortunes in Russia, but actually have been hammering the Germans with a rhetoric of defeat - with the Stalingrad fanfare as a climax today. Are they trying to frighten the Germans with a new fighting desperation by enlarging upon the threat of Soviet invasion? Or might it be that the

German military command is compelling the brutal truth to be told with funeral chimes - the truth about Hitler's adventure in Russia - Der Fuehrer being responsible for the disaster? It seems to be anybody's guess - what Nazi propaganda is up to. *But strange is — incredible.*

The truth is that they could give a less gloomy interpretation of their setbacks in Russia, could minimize them a bit, and promise to strike again in the Spring - which indeed the German war machine may do.

London, for example, does not take such an exaggerated view of the Nazi defeats - and warns against the assumption that these will be followed by quick victory for the United Nations. ^{TP} London military men state ^{today} that the German Army has been considerable reduced, and now probably numbers no more than six million effective fighting men, [^] after a loss of possible a million ~~xx~~ or a million and a half - killed, ~~xxxxxxx~~

incapacitated or made prisoner. ^{But,} Hitler still has a
mighty army, the London Dispatch stating, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
"There remains a tremendous veteran Axis fighting force
for the defense of the European fortress - one which
might strike anew against Russia, toward Gibraltar,
or even across the English Channel if it can gain time
and weapons." This tone from London is in interesting
contrast to the lugubrious Stalingrad symphony that
echoes from Berlin. *How very strange.*

*And I venture we'll hear more
about it — the reasons.*

F.B.I.

Here's a bit of news with a fine ironic sound.

Today, in northern New Jersey, the F.B.I. arrested a number of enemy aliens. One of these is a German who describes himself in these remarkable words: "the man selected to assume control of American industry when Hitler wins the war." That, says he, was what he was sent over here to do, and it does sound ironic along with the word - Stalingrad.

AFRICA

Today's bulletin from Allied Headquarters ⁱⁿ frankly acknowledges ~~the~~ ^a temporary failure. It states: "Our raid on Faid on February First was unsuccessful." This applies to a thrust against Axis forces holding the mountain ~~and~~ gateway called Faid Pass. As we heard last night, this pass is in Central Tunisia and is the key to a road system leading to the port of Sfax. Allied troops ~~had~~ pushed forward to seize the road gap through the hills, but found that it was too strongly defended by fortified enemy troops and artillery.

There was some early confusion about the town of Sened, which was captured by an American unit -- and the Americans were then said to have retired. It appears now that the original plan called for a raid into Sened and then a withdrawal. However, when the place was seized, according to schedule, the American commander decided it was feasible to hang on, and hold the town. This he did, so now American troops are in possession of the place. They have dug in, and thus far no enemy counter attack has developed.

AIR RAIDS

The British Air Force is busy today -- attacking France in day light raids. The weather was perfect, bright sunshine and the R.A.F. took advantage of this to launch bombs against the Nazis ~~in France,~~ *across the channel.*

Last night Cologne was the target -- once again. ~~Cologne the great industrial center, third largest city in Germany and the most bombed of all. Since the thousand plane raid against Cologne last spring, the Germans did a lot of repairing, fixing up damaged factories. They had gone far enough, with that, and last night the R.A.F. struck to do the damage all over again.~~ They hit Cologne with ~~bomb-bursting~~ *block-busting* explosives and flaming incendiaries. ~~amid~~ *amid* the fires they started the pilots were, in the words of the London Air Ministry "unable to distinguish their own bombs bursting in a sea of flames."

COUNCIL

President Roosevelt today disclosed military plans agreed upon at Casablanca - but it was not a public disclosure, nor was it complete. The President did not tell all. He conferred with the Pacific War Council and ^{informed} ~~told~~ them about some things agreed upon at Casablanca, giving them as much information as military expediency would permit.

Upon emerging from the White House, members of the Council gave the news men a hint or two. The Minister from New Zealand, Walter Nash, stated that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill at Casablanca made decisions ^{for blows against} ~~of which to strike the~~ ^{the} Nazis in Europe. "It was pretty well settled," said the New Zealander. He was asked whether the blow would be struck in the Mediterranean area or somewhere along the European Atlantic coast? He replied, "either one or both."

LEND-LEASE

~~Today~~ ^{today -} In Washington, the Lend-Lease program was called ^r "an indispensable instrument of our foreign policy." The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives is holding an inquiry into Lend-Lease, which is up for renewal in Congress. Dean Acheson, Assistant Secretary of State, was a witness today, and he stated that Lend-Lease was vital, not only to the waging of the war, but also to the establishment of peace. "It has become," said he, "the cornerstone of our wartime relations with friendly powers, and the agreements under which the Lend-Lease programs are conducted in war, also lay the foundations upon which peace can be built." In other words, Lend-Lease war agreements would be continued as economic arrangements in ~~the~~ time of peace.

TAXES

A proposal for pay-as-you-go income tax was made today by Congressman Doughton, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. At a hearing on the tax question, he suggested that in a pay-as-you-go plan income earned in Nineteen Forty-Two might be taxed on the basis of the rates that apply ⁱⁿ in Nineteen Forty-One. The rates for Nineteen Forty-One were lower than those enacted for Nineteen Forty-Two.

The whole thing concerns the question of - doubling up. Meaning - that people while having money deducted from their wages to pay the taxes on their Nineteen Forty-Three income, would also have to pay the tax on their Nineteen Forty-Two income. Double taxation! It is realized that paying ⁱⁿ one year ^{the} taxes for two years would come mighty tough for a lot of people. Hence, the proposal to cut down the amount that they would have to pay for Nineteen Forty-Two -

reduce the rate by going back to the Nineteen Forty-One rate.

At today's hearing, Chairman Doughton asked Randolph Paul, counsel for the Treasury Department, whether such a plan has been considered. The Treasury counsel replied - yes. He said that the idea had received, what he called - "serious consideration."

BOSTON

Here's a bit of news that comes as a shock.

It
^ concerns Boston, cultured Boston, famous from times of yore as the Athens of America -- Boston, the city of the Cabots and Lodges and of Harvard College. But what do we hear today?

At Montreal, Alex Fisher appeared in a police court with a black eye and a battered face. The man who had given him the beating was up before the magistrate. Alex, with his shiner and his battered nose, his swollen lips and all -- refused to prosecute. Never mind the wallop he had taken. "I used to live in Boston," he explained, "and I'm used to this sort of thing." *Bostonians are.*

Alas -- cultured Boston. And now the equally cultured Hugh James.