

P.T. - Suva. Friday, Oct. 16, 1942.

It is increasingly apparent that the Japs are making ^{an} ~~their~~ all-out bid to regain the Solomon Island bases that were seized from them. That they would make a big time attempt has been a certainty all along, - So we have been told by our own naval commanders, Admiral Nimitz, for example.

The Jap could not be expected to yield tamely to the brilliant surprise blow, by which the Marines seized positions ~~in~~ in the southern part of the Solomon Islands - taking ~~away~~ away from the enemy, for example, the all-important air base on Guadalcanal Island. The Japs had built the flying field with great labor, but before they had a chance to use it, the Leathernecks jumped in and captured it.

~~Now~~ Humiliation, a loss of face for the Jap, so it was inevitable that Tokyo would order a number one attempt to retrieve the loss. ~~In fact, the one thing that has surprised our commanders is that the far eastern enemy has not tried it sooner, has delayed for so long.~~ But, now the crisis has come - with our boys out there facing a climactic mobilization of Japanese power.

The news is that the Jap has landed new and heavy reinforcements on Guadalcanal, and these brought cannon with them, guns that are now in action. Today's Navy bulletin states:- "A large number of enemy troops, with equipment, have been landed on Guadalcanal Island, and our positions are now being shelled by enemy artillery on the island."

Hitherto, the Marines and regular Army soldiers have been bombed from the air and shelled by warships on the sea. Now the Jap has added land guns to the explosive array.

One highly significant question ~~is~~ is this - is our air base on Guadalcanal in operation, in spite of the bombing and bombardment? The answer would seem to be - yes. Today's Navy bulletin tells how Navy and Marine corps dive bombers left Guadalcanal and made two attacks on enemy transports that were approaching the island. The bulletin reports that minor damage was inflicted, and one escorting fighter plane was lost. But it is clear that ^{our} ~~the~~ air squadrons were based on Guadalacnal. - on that number one flying field. So the air base is in operation - or at least it was within a period ~~of~~ to be measur^eed by hours.

Today's Navy bulletin concludes by stating that a large group of enemy ships has been observed approaching the Solomon Islands, in addition to others that have already arrived in the Guadalcanal area. ~~This~~ This means, of course, that the Japs are bent on landing still more ~~reinforcements~~ reinforcements to support their attack. Quite naturally, the Navy ~~gives~~ gives us no word about the movements of our own warships. They are operating in secrecy, pursuing their own strategy to check the enemy - as the Jap makes his all-out attempt.

8
Here is a late statement by Secretary of the ~~Navy~~ Navy Frank Knox. He describes the battle at Guadalcanal in these words:- "A stiff, tough fight". And he adds that the outcome ~~is~~ of the savage struggle has not yet been determined, but he hopes and expects that our American forces will hold the positions they won.

PYGMIES

The news from New Guinea is nearly always war news nowadays, but tonight it is anthropological. The great dark island always was a happy hunting ground for the student of strange types of the human race - there were so many new phenomena to be ~~found~~ discovered deep in the ferocious jungle. ^{Now} ~~How~~ this war has sent ~~and~~ soldiers into remote recesses of the equatorial forest, and they are finding many a strange thing - as witness today's bit of anthropology.

Australian troops in the Owen Stanley Mountains, so desolate and forbidding, have discovered a hitherto unknown tribe of Pygmies. These are among the smallest ^{yet--} averaging in stature about thirty-six inches. The tallest of the tribe was found to be no more than thirty-eight inches in height. They are called Moikodis. And are of the most primitive sort. They dress themselves in the bark of trees and are compelled to serve other and larger aborigines. They tend the hill gardens of taller tribes.

several hundred thousand

There are other Pygmies in New Guinea, one group of them quite well known - a tribe living in ^{the} Ramu Valley.

They are forty-eight inches tall - giants in comparison to the newly discovered dwarfs of only thirty-six inches, ^{only} three feet.

Realm of the fantastic is that black barbaric island, a realm of startling contrast. One of its tribes, fierce and fuzzy, is the Orkala - and they have an average stature of six feet.

RUSSIA

The latest from Russia states that during the day all German attacks at Stalingrad were repelled. (This favorable news ~~fr~~ follows Soviet admissions of Nazi advances - in which the Germans captured several streets in the bomb blasted city. They opened a gap, and into this they poured new forces of men and machines.)

The Nazi drive in Stalingrad is ~~described~~ described as a violent affair on a narrow front - with the enemy trying to drive a wedge to the Volga. At the point of the wedge the Nazis attack time after time -- "in waves about every two hours", says today's Moscow dispatch. Yesterday, between ~~sunrise~~ sunrise and sunset seven major assaults were launched.

These were supported by the most intense kind of air activity. Today the Soviet Army newspapers, Red Star, used the following words:- "Frightful air attacks on a narrow sector designated for the break through". To which it adds:- "The decisive battle for Stalingrad is raging".

From the enemy side we have the repeated claim that the Germans actually have broken through the city ~~of~~ to the Volga. Also an Axis radio statement that the Germans have now captured the entire interior of the city -- with the exception of two big factories.

The new flame of battle at Stalingrad during the past several days, is in dramatic contrast to the previous Nazi ~~announcement~~ announcement that no further attempt would be made to capture the great industrial city by storm - it would be destroyed by artillery fire. Clearly the statement was some *as we suspected then.* twisty kind of ~~the~~ propaganda. For now the Nazis are making a climactic ~~climactic~~ attempt to storm Stalingrad.

FRANCE

The seething state of affairs in France is illustrated vividly by a ~~new~~ decree issued today. The Vichy Government gave warning that the death penalty might be imposed on any person who ^cooperates with the dropping of arms and ammunition from the air.

Planes of the United States have been sending weapons down to patriotic Frenchmen - for use against the Nazis and pro-Nazis. And this is getting plenty of cooperation from French ~~men~~ people on the ground, who ^{are} ~~have taken the guns and ammunition~~ ^{hiding} ~~and hidden~~ them. ~~for use in the freeing of France.~~

The menace of this to the Nazis and their friends is obvious - ~~the French people being armed from the air for a future revolt, if not for immediate terrorist activity.~~

^{It's} ~~The threat is~~ so serious that today the Vichy Council of Ministers issued this ^{warning!} ~~morning~~ anyone cooperating with the dropping of weapons will be turned over to special state tribunals, and these will have the power to impose the death penalty.

The news of the warning comes along with fresh tidings of unrest and violence in France - both the occupied and unoccupied areas. There is a wave of unrest, with increasing outbreaks against the German conquerors and such Frenchmen as collaborate with them. A prominent newspaper of occupied Paris today states that assassinations of pro-Nazis are becoming more frequent - assassinations and attacks.

In Paris, a bomb explosion last night wrecked the headquarters of the number one pro-Nazi group headed by Doriot, an ace of collaborationism. Doriot heads a pro-Nazi youth movement, and his outfit narrowly escaped disaster. A meeting had been scheduled, but was cancelled, a mere half hour before the bomb ~~blow~~ blew up. Obviously, the explosion had been planned to wipe out Doriot and his henchmen.

And ~~The~~ strikes ~~are~~ spreading to French industrial centers, walkouts with disturbances. These, in protest against attempts to send large numbers of French workers for labor in Germany - manpower to ease the labor shortage in the Nazi armament industry. This policy was agreed upon by the Germans and the Vichy big shot,

Laval. But now the recruiting of labor for Germany has been going on so badly that the Nazis are planning to toss out Laval -- so we hear, and put in Dariot, the arch pro-Nazi whose headquarters in Paris were blown up by a bomb today.

LI from
observation
post.

Pawling.

Oct. 16, 1942.

OBSERVATION POST BROADCAST
PAWLING - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

L.T. Here beside me tonight is one of Uncle Sam's pursuit pilots, Colonel Davis D. Graves, in command of the New York Air Defense Wing. This past summer Colonel Graves was flying one of our speediest planes, the new P 47, called the Thunderbolt, which is designed to put it over the Jap Zero, the German Focke-Wolfe, or any plane. He was flying one of the first of these, ^{on a test flight.} ~~when they were still making tests.~~
^{at} ~~And~~ twenty-four thousand feet or so above Long Island Sound, over the town of Oyster Bay, his engine caught fire. Instead of baling out, he brought his plane down two and a half miles, until he knew he was out over the Sound where his hurtling Thunderbolt would not endanger the lives of any people below. Then he baled out. Next morning, as if nothing had happened he was back at the ^{New York} Information Center where all of the observers of the Aircraft Warning Service send in

OBSERVATION POST - 2

their calls, telling about the planes they have spotted.

Aircraft observers, these days, are always on the alert up and down our coast, from Maine to Florida, and along the Gulf, and on the Pacific Coast. There are ~~seven~~ ⁵ thousand ~~five hundred~~ ⁰⁷ observation posts within the First Fighter Command, here in the East. And, I am broadcasting from one of these tonight - the observation post of the Aircraft Warning Service at Pawling, New York, within a few miles of my own home on historic Quaker Hill. And, with me are Colonel Davis D. Graves, Commander of the New York Air Defense Wing, and Mrs. Eddie Rickenbacker, wife of our World War ace, ^{and Major Blackwell, regional director} And standing around me, some inside and some outside are about a hundred of my neighbors, who are observers here at this post. Louis Lemee, the Chief Observer is beside me. There are ~~hundreds of~~ ^{thousands of} ~~more than half a~~ ^{million} volunteer observers along our East coast doing the same job that my neighbors are doing.

Colonel Graves, what do you think about all this Aircraft Warning business?

of aircraft warning service.

Graves.

Oct. 16,

1942

talk about it!
just to hear you
colonel

COLONEL GRAVES:- In addition to congratulating Chief Observer Lemee and his associates, I want to encourage them a little, now that winter is coming on. It is going to be freezing cold on a lot of observation posts, when the wind howls through the cracks and your little stove makes a pathetic attempt to take the icy sting out of the air. ^{L.T. :- It makes me shiver now} As you stand there, stamping your feet, with your coat collar up around your ears, as you look up into the sky and see maybe a lone U.S. transport plane, purring along, you may think you're the fall guys, the suckers of our national war effort, doing something that doesn't mean anything. But, you are wrong. For you~~x~~ observers are just as important to winning the war as your other neighbors who work in a war plant. Almost as important as your brothers and sons in the armed forces. First of all, you release thousands of soldiers for duty on the fighting fronts. Second, you can't tell when the enemy will come winging through the sky. And if and when he does, we'll be counting on you. We fighter pilots are counting heavily on you. *For our part we fighter pilots are ready.*

5
16

Mrs.

Rickenbacker.

OCT. 167

1942.

L.T. Colonel Graves, I hope all of the many thousands of observers of the First Fighter Command heard you tonight. If they did, then I think surely they'll be on the job this winter!

---0---

Mrs. Rickenbacker, without divulging any secrets, what impression did you get from what your husband Captain Eddie told you about his recent trip abroad?

MRS. R:- One impression was this -- that our American planes are as good as any planes in the world; and that we are going to win the war, and do it largely in the air -- by bombing Germany until we paralyze German war industry!

DRAFT

The Senate Military Affairs Committee today okayed a bill to lower the draft age to eighteen. The Committee vote was unanimous. The Senate measure is similar to the one that ~~was~~ has already been okayed by a committee of the House of Representatives. There's one difference, however. The lower House bill includes a clause that would enable youths of eighteen and nineteen to complete their school terms. Such as are now in school or college would be deferred until the end of the term. The Senate bill rejects this proposal, and would defer nobody because of study.

WASHINGTON FLOOD

, Washington, the nation's Capitol, is threatened by the worst flood in its history. The Potomac is rising, and already some areas of the city are inundated. ~~The~~ A weather bureau official says the river has been rising so rapidly that the Bureau would not believe its own guages until they had been checked twice.

The flood stage of the Potomac is seven feet. The highest mark was recorded in Nineteen-thirty-six -- more than seventeen feet. Today the forecast is that the Potomac might rise to a level of between seventeen and eighteen feet -- the crest ~~is~~ coming tonight or Saturday morning.

In the Nineteen thirty-six flood measures had to be taken to protect the building^s of the government. Barriers of sand bags were built to keep the flood waters from what is called the government triangle. This year, ~~fixer~~ flood or no flood,

such protection will not be necessary. Because, during the past several years, the level of the land around the government

triangle has been raised, ^{so fortunately} and there's no way by which the overflow

of the Potomac¹ can reach the center of the city. In the West we call this a flash-flood. Now a final flash-flood of words from Hush.

8/2

59