

PACIFIC

C.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Aug. 11, 1942.

Zannon

Today there was one vast flare of war in ^{-vast} areas of the western Pacific. The Battle of the Solomon Islands is accompanied by thundering repercussions that extend all the way into China, violent clashes all connected with one main theme - the Solomons. United Nations armed forces, Americans mostly, are striking at the Japs far and wide - to aid the marines on the beaches of Tulagi.

This bit of land, Tulagi, is one of the smaller islands of the Solomon^s - but of key importance, because it has one of the best^{or} harbors, a commodious basin in which great fleets might lie. You can picture Tulagi with all you remember of South Sea romance - jungle, a coast fringed with palms, and coral reef and lagoon, ~~honey-headed Melanesians with~~ ^{bones thru their noses.} The latest tonight is a bulletin from Australia which uses the words, "still inconclusive." That was preceded by other Australian news dispatches using similar

phraseology -- "holding our own." Calling the news -- "not unfavorable:" [The general impression is that the Marines are fighting as marines can fight, hanging on to their beach positions and even making some gains.]

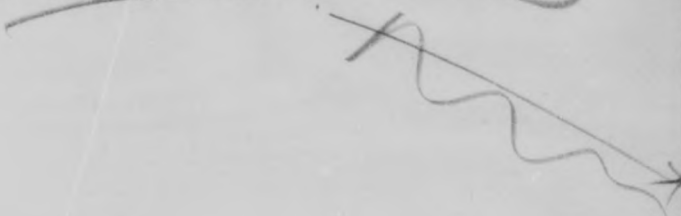
A desperate fight. In fact it has been a desperate conflict from the beginning when five days ago our forces struck a surprise blow and forced landings at Tulagi. [The Japs are bringing to bear everything they can to beat off this first United Nations offensive.] On the island the garrison is resisting with all its power. And the Tokyo High Command is striving to bring all possible reinforcements.

The Solomon Islands mark the farthest extention of the Jap advance to the south and east, and the route for reinforcements is along the immense line of Japanese conquest -- a line that extends all the way from China.

We are trying to check the flow of enemy war

power toward the beaches of Tulagi. Hence today
General MacArthur's air squadrons were flying against
the Japanese bases northeast of the Solomons.

They bombed the Japs in the Bismarck
Archipelago, on New Guinea, and on the Island of Timor.
Australian ground forces assaulted the Japs at
their forward New Guinea positions, the Kokoda sector
and drove them back. Australian bombers at Timor
skimmed over Jap ships at an altitude of fifty feet,
and blasted them with devastating results.



The theatre of MacArthur's bombing operations alone was on a front of twenty-seven hundred miles. And then a few thousand miles farther on to the north and west, American bombers in China roared into battle today. United States army air force headquarters at Hengyang give us a bulletin stating that its warplanes are conducting an all-out assault to support the United Nations offensive in the Solomons. The marines on Tulagi Beach are a long way from Hengyang - but they are being supported even at that distance. ^PThe purpose of today's American air activity in China is to hold the Jap air forces at their Chinese bases, keep them fighting off attacks in China - and thereby prevent them from swinging away to the Solomon Island area. So our heavy bombers ~~xxxx~~ blasted Canton - Number One Jap base on the South China coast. They ^{bombed} ~~blasted~~ docks and warehouses along the Pearl River, and smashed up the

Canton airdrome. It is estimated that fifteen big ^{Tap} bombers were destroyed in the attack. They were lined up on the ground, and bombs exploded among them.

Nanchang was hit, and there the damage was done by an American bombing unit called - "The Flying Dragons". *cousins of "The Flying Tigers," no doubt.* Yochow was dèduged explosively with five tons of bombs.

And Hankow was blazing today with two large fires set by low level bombing attacks.

9
These assaults are described as being - a diversion - to keep the Japs from ^{rushing} ~~reaching~~ air reinforcements to the south. Long range help for the marines ~~on the beaches of~~ ^{at} Tulagi.

Those marines are well able to take care of themselves. A late story from Washington tells how they were put through special training for battle in the coconut and banana groves of the south seas. Their training grounds were jungle areas, where they were taught all sorts of tricks, fighting Japs in just such country as the Solomon Islands.

INDIA

Today's news in India may be summarized in a paradoxical statement that Gandhi's campaign of non-violence grew more violent today than ever. The latest from the strike-torn land of Hindustan tells that twenty-eight people have been killed in the Bombay area alone, with many other casualties far and wide as violence and rioting continue to spread across ~~the land of Hindustan~~ ^{India.} Repeatedly the police have had to fire on the crowds. ^{TP} Yesterday was bad, but today was worse -- with mobs on the rampage, workers going out on strikes, ~~and~~ shops closing, many of them forced to close. Mobs were storming through the streets, compelling storekeepers to close their doors -- although the British authorities forbade them to do this under pain of severe penalties. The center of disturbances continues to be Bombay -- with the capital city of Delhi a close second. ^{TP} Most ominous is the fact that strikes and disorders are spreading to Calcutta --

the vital center of the war industries of British India.

There was a particularly wild outbreak today in one of the world's romantic thoroughfares, the Street of Silver in ^{old} Delhi. This ~~has~~ long been famous for the fabulous jewels and gold and silver ^{and ivory} ~~work~~ ^{traditional} of India. Today there was such a storm of violence on Silver Street the police had to open fire on a mob -- one killed. And finally British ^{the Fort of Akshbar-the-Great--} troops occupied the old Delhi Fort [^] at one end of the Street of Silver.

Railroads were under attack, trains assaulted. ^{At} ~~xx~~ [^] one point a mob smashed a signal station, and at another place followers of Gandhi piled huge masses of boulders across the track, halting traffic.

In Bombay, it was almost impossible to get through the streets of the northern part of the city -- for the mob uprooted iron fences, pavements and

trees and piled them across the road.

In Delhi a military truck was burned. The truck was trying to drive through a rioting street. Stones flew and the soldier driver was hit. He lost control of the steering wheel, the truck crashed into a tree. The mob swarmed ^{and} ~~to~~ set fire to it.

We are told that the insurrectional movement is being directed by what are called -- "shadow committees." These took charge when Gandhi and the other leaders of the Indian Nationalist Congress were arrested. It would appear that Gandhi and his crowd were all set for arrest, and had arranged for a hidden leadership to take their places -- shadow committees, working underground.

Meanwhile, Gandhi is in jail, or rather he's being detained in the Aga Khan^{'s} Palace at Poona. *The meditating Mahatma* ^{is} is described as having rather a pleasant time in *at Poona where he has been in* his imprisonment, taking it easy. They say he's catching up with his sleep and working at his

is still before.

spinning wheel -- that spinning wheel which the Hindu mystic regards as a symbol of the traditional industry of India. ^{TP} And Gandhi devotes much time to his religious exercises. He recites prayers and hymns -- and reads the Koran. Gandhi, of course, is no Mohammedan. His religion is Brahminical Hinduism -- to which the Moslems are so hostile. ^{and not the Rig Veda?} So why the Koran? [^] The word from Gandhi's prison in the Aga Khan Palace, is that he wants to understand more about the philosophy of Islam -- so he reads the words of the prophet Mohammed. ^{TP} Well, Gandhi may well want to learn ^{run} more about Islam, because news from India constantly reflects the fear that fighting may break out between the Hindus and the Moslems, [^] the kind of riot that has long been a terror in India. Thus far, with all the turmoil and violence, no clashes between the Mohammedans and Hindus have been reported. But they ^{are} ~~are~~ [^] expected.

Meanwhile, here's a bit of news significantly

3
sinister. The Chinese report that heavy Japanese forces are moving westward across Burma toward the border of India. New divisions of Jap troops are being brought to sectors from which a drive will be launched -- presumably when the monsoon season is over -- in September. Thus the cobra, the Jap, is poising to strike -- while India is in an upheaval.

RUSSIA

A dispatch from Moscow states that in the Caucasus the Germans have been beaten back at at least three points. We are told that the Red forces consisted of marines supported by naval units, and that the three points were along the coast. This may be tied in with the fact that the Nazi war machine is threatening three important Soviet ports in the Caucasus, - ports used by the Russian Black Sea fleet. Berlin has been claiming that Soviet land forces have been trying to escape that way - evacuation by sea. And today the Vichy radio, which talks for the Nazis mostly, reported that a German spearhead had driven to within thirty-two miles of the biggest of the three ports - the Soviet naval base at Novor^ossisk.


This is one angle of ominous news from the Caucasus - ^{where} ~~while~~ the Nazis are continuing their sweep. They claim the Maikop oil fields, and there are insistent indications that the Soviets have blown up their oil field

structures, applying the scorched earth policy. One dispatch tells of the Soviet defenders being backed up against the towering snow clad peaks of the Caucasus Mountains.

And, Moscow gives out bad news about ~~that other critical area~~ - Stalingrad. There, the Nazis are attacking at two critical points - north and south, threatening to close a pincer around Stalingrad. Moscow states today that the north pincer arm at Kletskaya has penetrated Soviet positions, and the southern Nazi drive is being pressed with heavy attacks by massed tanks.

FIFTH COLUMN

Today in Washington an element of doubt was cast on the sensational story about fifth columnists laying out guide signs for enemy warplanes. This startling disclosure was a headline yesterday. It emanated from the army air base at Mitchel Field, Long Island, and presented graphic evidence - pictures, air views showing markings on the ground. ^{TP} There was a field plowed ~~into~~ in the shape of an arrow pointing in the direction of ^a strategic airfield. And rustic paths were apparently laid out as ^{arrow} pointers. A lot of empty grain sacks on the ground were arranged in the form of the figure nine. This, placed in such fashion as to show the direction toward an important military objective that hostile bombers might attack.

The story indicated the most sinister kind of activity by fifth columnists, preparing the way for bomb  raids against us.

These Fifth Columnists must have been farmers -- since all the pointers had to do with fields and rural areas. It was shocking indeed to think of farmers on American fields being in league with the enemy -- collaborating with the possible air raids. One wondered -- could the marking on the ground have been accidental? The land, when seen from the sky, can reveal curious shapes and figures. However, the skilled aerial observers of the Army would be the ones to decide.

Today's expression of doubt is contained in a statement issued from Washington. It reads as follows: "Reports reaching the War Department indicate that a story relative to signs pointing to important defense installations -- may be untrue."

One curious remark on this subject comes from L.J. McNamara, a superintendent of the New Jersey Fish and Game Commission who says that some while ago, Army Intelligence Officers asked him about what is

called, " a bird feed patch." This sectionf of earth had been laid out by the Game Commission for the feeding of birds and was shaped like an arrow -- accidentally. Later, the bird feed patch was enlarged -- to destroy the arrow effect when seen from the sky. The New Jersey Fish and Game officil thinks it may be the same as the arrow pointer shown in one of the pictures just released.

Still later comes word about the figure nine formed of empty sacks. This was seen from the air at the Virginia farm of an agriculturist named C. Russell Bull. His wife today stated that it was the Bull family custom to scatter empty fertilizer bags from a moving truck and it was just a coincidence that the sacks fell in the form of the figure nine. She added that some while ago Army officers called at her farm to ask about it. An explanation was given and the empty bags were rearranged -- so as not to point at anything.

NURSES

Over in England, a bevy of American nurses arrived with a convoy, and were promptly given a warning. They must be careful about divulging military secrets. Officers told them sternly that they must not reveal anything that might be of military value.

Shortly afterward, the nurses were visited by Queen Elizabeth, who chatted with them in her affable way. Later the officers were embarrassed to learn that one of the nurses had refused to tell the Queen how long she had been in England. You can imagine Her Majesty saying to the American nurse with her customary graciousness:- "So nice of you to come over - and how long have you been here?" And the nurse replying:-
"Sorry Queen, but I can't tell you."

TALL STORY

I have received some information indicating that the war may do something to revive our old tall story club - this by way of the letters that soldiers write to the folks at home. Daniel L. Dwyer of Dayton, Ohio, tells me about a young army flier who informed his family in Dayton of a strange disaster that our Air Corps had suffered - the way an Army bomber was lost. ^{Lieut.} Verne Malloy is station^{ed} at some fighting outpost of ours. The exact place is a military secret - and it is not in New Jersey, although you might think so from the story of what happened.

"The other night," Lieutenant Malloy writes to the folks, "we found that one of our large bombers was missing. We looked toward the edge of the woods and saw three mosquitos dragging the bomber into the bush. As we approached," he goes on, "we heard one skeeter say:

" "Fellows, we better stop and eat this bomber

right here. And then the skeeter went on to indicate
the reason - if they carried the ^(Flying Fortress)~~big bomber~~ warplane back into the
woods, the big mosquitos there would take it away from
them!!

I wonder how many other families are getting
tall story accounts of the war from their boys in the
fighting areas.

9
And S-L-U-T-M.