

EGYPT

@ P.J. Sunoco. Tuesday, Nov. 3, 1942.

In the Egyptian desert, ^(a spectacular) ~~an armored~~ battle ^{of} ~~on a~~ ^{tanks} ~~considerable scale~~ is being waged in the northern sector of the El Alamein line. Australian troops broke through the Axis lines in the coastal sector, ^{and they now} ~~They~~ have a force ^{now estimated at} ~~of some~~ twenty-five hundred, Nazi and Italian soldiers, isolated and surrounded.

The Nazis admit ^{the} ~~that~~ British Imperial forces ^{And} ~~have~~ broken through. ^{it} They report the battle is becoming more intense all the time. German spokesmen in Berlin described ^{it} ~~that affair in the western desert~~ as the greatest tank ^{engagement so far,} ~~battle ever fought~~ in North Africa.

Radio Rome used these words:- "The battle on the Egyptian front flared up yesterday with even greater violence." The Fascist radio went on to talk about "huge enemy armored forces." Both the Nazi and Fascist communiques claim that Axis counter-attacks have stopped the British. But they admit that their

losses are also formidable. There was a report that one detachment of Australians had driven a spearhead through the Axis front lines and then turned north and penetrated to a point on the coast twenty-five miles west of El Alamein.)

However, ^{the} ~~they have not got the Axis fighters~~ ~~completely isolated.~~ Nazi tanks ^{seem to be keeping} ~~kept open~~ a narrow ^{open} corridor through which ^{is sending} ~~sent~~ reinforcements to help the trapped soldiers.

An important part ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ the battle is being ^{played} ~~taken~~ by both British and American planes. One United States fighter squadron ^{pounded} ~~set fire to~~ an Axis airdrome and destroyed at least seven Nazi planes. Then a force of twenty-five German dive bombers, with twenty pursuit planes, attempted to attack the British front lines. Allied fighters dived into the German formation and in five minutes ~~had~~ shot down five Nazi bombers and damaged more than a dozen others.

ADD EGYPT

A late bulletin from Cairo brings ~~the~~ word that the tanks of the Imperial army have smashed through the Axis mine fields. They ^{have} pushed ahead seventeen miles into open country and ~~they~~ are now fighting what is described as a showdown battle with Rommel's Afrika Korps. The fighting is concentrated in the scrubby desert, well beyond the Axis fortifications. ^H This is the first time that the Eighth Army has tangled with Rommel's tanks in open country.

RUSSIA

The news from Russia tonight ^{tells of} ~~sounds quite ominous.~~

The Nazis ~~are~~ pushing closer and closer to those vital Grozny oilfields. ^{news is that the Reds are} ~~They have ~~xxxxxxx~~ the Red army~~

outnumbered and ^{the Nazis} are forging ahead steadily, southeast of Nalchik, which ^{they took} ~~the Russians abandoned~~ yesterday.

The Nazi advance guard now threatens on the one hand Ordzhonikidze, the gateway to Georgia and the southern Caucasus. On the other hand, the Nazis are menacing the railhead leading to ~~the~~ Grozny, ^{And} ~~oilfields~~ ^{that} is the chief point of danger on the Russian front now.

A Nazi news agency today broadcast a claim that the Soviet forces had lost fourteen million men, killed, seriously wounded or taken prisoner.

The Nazis also point out that that part of the Soviet Union ^{that} they have occupied is the most densely populated ^{with} ~~occupied~~ ninety million inhabitants. ^{And that they now} ~~they have more~~ possess more ^{than} four hundred thousand square miles of Russia.

The Soviet high command counter^S~~ed~~ this
propaganda claim with ^{the} a statement that the Red army
had^S killed or put out of action at least ten million
Germans.

However, in all reports of fighting on th^S~~at~~
Russian front, we notice that the Soviet dispatches
constantly speak of the superior numbers of the Germans.

FRANCE FOLLOW VICHY

Bombs ^{went off} ~~exploded~~ today in several parts of the

unoccupied ~~zone of~~ France. The significant ^{ce of it all} ~~feature of~~

~~these bombings~~ is, that ^{this occurs just} ~~they happened~~ twenty-four hours

before the opening of the Congress of the Pro-Nazi

National Party in France led by the French Quizling,

Jacques Doriot. ^{Two of the} ~~There were two~~ ^{occurred} explosions ^{at} Vichy.

One of ^{them} ~~which~~ destroyed the regional headquarters of the

Doriot Party. Another bomb went off near the propaganda

center of Marshal Petain's National Legion Organization.

^{And} There were eight explosions at Lyons, once the center

of the silk trade. ^{also} ~~and~~ bombs ^{exploded} ~~also went off~~ at Nice,

Marseilles and six other large French cities.

VICHY

Secretary of State Hull today spoke in defense of his policies toward the Vichy regime in France.

A reporter had asked him to comment on the statement made by Wendell Willkie, the sentence in which Willkie used the words, "continued recognition of the vicious and subversive Vichy government."

Secretary Hull said he was not going to get into any controversy. But, he would say positively that the government and the Department of State were both ~~entirely~~ satisfied with the course being pursued in our relations with Vichy. There will be less criticism of American foreign policies, he declared, when the record is opened and the public understands facts which are now held back.

SOLOMONS

From three fronts in the global war we have more favorable news today, *but as I already have mentioned* ~~but~~ not from Russia.

~~W~~here the Nazis are throwing in everything, in a desperate attempt to get those oilfields before winter shuts down on the Caucasus.

As for the brighter side of the picture, American men-o'-war bagged two more Japanese cruisers and one Jap destroyer. That is, two more than had been previously reported. It happened in the battle near Savo Island, in the Solomons, the night of October eleventh-twelfth. The Navy already had told us they had sunk one heavy enemy cruiser, four destroyers and a transport. Also, that they had ^{damaged} had

two more cruisers of the Jap fleet. This ^{if now} brings the
total ^{number of} Jap warships destroyed in that battle to three
cruisers and five destroyers.

The news was brought to Washington by Vice-Admiral Ghormley, who was recently relieved of his command in the South Pacific area and replaced by Vice-Admiral Halsey. While giving out this news, Secretary Knox uttered a warning. He said:- "I detect a disposition to grow too optimistic about the Solomons due to our signal success in the first round." Then he continued: "There is no warrant for optimism..... ~~It still is a bitter, tough battle.~~ We know the enemy have a fleet of formidable proportions left. We have not any doubt they will come back. It is dangerous to assume they will not be back."

The Secretary said further: "Any assumption that this is all there will be of the operation, is
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

unwarranted. There is a desperate hard fight ahead."

"Both sides," said Secretary Knox, "are taking advantage of the lull to strengthen their lines for what will come." And then he remarked that in his opinion "some of the newspaper headlines this morning were more optimistic than the situation justified."

Reporters asked the Secretary questions about Vice-Admiral Ghormley, to which Knox replied: "I told him to take a good rest and recover his health. He had been under a terrific strain."

The battle in which our Navy lads sank three Jap cruisers and five destroyers was a midnight affair and lasted only thirty minutes. So it must have resembled the battle in which we lost four cruisers -- three American and one Australian.

The recent battle came about through an attempt of the Japanese to land reinforcements, which they were obliged to abandon.

~~Now we have~~ Later news from the Solomons; ^{that American} ~~our~~ [^]

land forces are still attacking west of Henderson Airfield on Guadalcanal. Their way is prepared for them by dive bombers and gunfire from destroyers off

shore. The destroyers took advantage of the withdrawing of the main Japanese fleet to move closer to land and shell the enemy position west of the Matanikau River.

← Uncle Sam's leathernecks ^{and regulars} have pushed the Japs back [^] as far as two miles in one sector west of that river.

53
But the news from those islands is not all good.

In spite of the withdrawal of the Japanese fleet, the enemy has landed reinforcements on the east flank of the American forces. ^{Which} ~~and that~~ ^{that} means [^] the contingent ^{now} holding Henderson airfield [^] has enemy forces on both sides of it. We are not told any details about the landing of those ^{Jap} [^] reinforcements nor their number.

Presumably they were landed by plane. In any event,

LEADxxxxx

this news bears out Secretary Knox's warning that desperately hard fighting lies ahead.

The Navy today published a summation of the warship casualties. Sixteen American ships have been sunk in the Solomons, including three cruisers and one aircraft carrier.

On the other hand, American naval forces have damaged a total of sixty-two enemy ships, ~~that~~ ^{ing} includes four carriers, three battleships, twenty-seven cruisers, eleven destroyers, three seaplane tenders, fourteen miscellaneous, cargo and other vessels. One Jap heavy cruiser, eight destroyers and three transport vessels were definitely sunk. Two ^{other} destroyers and one transport probably sunk.

NEW GUINEA

54
Tonight we have further details of the surprisingly quick capture of strategic Kokoda in New Guinea. The news from Australia yesterday indicated that it might take some time before the Japanese could be driven out, forced to abandon the airfield there.

Well, it seems that a large part of the credit for the victory goes to the three-man patrol which worked its way through the Japanese lines and obtained invaluable information. The patrol got into the enemy camp nine days ago, and returned safely with vital information. And so it was that the American-Australian command obtained intelligence that made the final assault far easier.

TP All of which indicates that
the Australians have learned ^{a lot about} jungle fighting, ~~just as~~
~~well as the Japs.~~

Having consolidated their positions in
^{New Guinea,}
Kokoda, the Australian ground troops are pushing on
toward ~~Oivi.~~ That ~~is~~ the next native village, on the
road to Buna.

Meanwhile, flying fortresses and B-25
bombers kept a constant and comprehensive watch over
the waters around northern New Guinea, looking for
Jap convoys bringing reinforcements. They spotted one,
a flotilla of two transports protected by a light
cruiser and a destroyer, steaming for Buna. ^{Mac Arthur's} ~~our~~ bombers
got busy, and at last reports, that ^{Jap} ~~the~~ convoy had turned
tail and was fleeing toward New Britain.

MANPOWER

President Roosevelt had been advised that the War Manpower Commission should have the Selective Service under its wing. That advice was contained in the report sent to the President yesterday by Chairman Paul McNutt of the Manpower Commission. McNutt told reporters that this has become necessary because local draft boards are paying no attention whatsoever to instructions issued by the commanding officers of Selective Service ^{and} ~~They~~ are recklessly drafting men who are sorely needed in war plants and especially on the farms.

Elmer Davis, head of the Office of War Information, said a few days ago that the manpower situation is becoming almost as muddled as the labor situation before it was handed over to Jeffers to untangle.

If the President adopts the recommendations

in the manpower program, workers will be forbidden to
enlist in the armed forces after January First. ^{And} The
War Manpower Commission will decide where anybody can
most effectively help the war effort.

ROOSEVELT

A tall, broad-shouldered figure ^{entered a} ~~walked into a~~ polling place at Hyde Park today. J. W. Finch, Chairman of the election board, peered up over his spectacles and said solemnly, "Name, please?"

The tall, broad-shouldered man replied:-

"Franklin D. Roosevelt."

- as they always do, -
Then [^]they asked him, "Occupation?"

To which he replied: "Farmer." And he added:

"I think that's what I said the last time."

As he came out of the booth he ~~xxxxx~~ struck his head on the curtain rod and remarked plaintively: "They might raise the height of these booths."

Then he asked Chairman Finch: "Did my Missus's ballot get in from London in time?"

Finch replied: "It is not included in the absentee ballots on hand."

At that, the President shook his head, "Tut, tut."

He had sent Mrs. Roosevelt an absentee ballot to England and it had plenty of time to get back.

ELECTIONS

From all over the country comes the same story about the elections: ^{that the} Voting is light. Virtually all the candidates in their farewell radio broadcasts besought the electors, whatever their opinions, to vote, no matter whom they voted for. ~~An amazing number of people appear~~ ^{A large number of voters are now in Service} to have greeted that plea with a shrug. ~~One observer pointed out that this appears to show that you can give a man a vote but you cannot force him to use it.~~ ^{But,} Maybe there will be a late rush to the polls.

Only in comparatively few states is the voting time over at seven o'clock. Many of them keep the polls open until eight ^{or} even nine P.M. ^{And} In California, Oregon and Washington, the closing time is eleven o'clock.

Thirty-two of the states are electing governors. The keenest fight ^{of all being} ~~for that job, as most people know,~~ is ~~the one~~ in New York between Tom Dewey and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ State's Attorney John J. Bennett. ~~As you may have heard,~~ Bennett is the protege of Jim Farley. ~~Political experts are predicting that if Bennett loses, it means~~

~~the political end of Sunny Jim.~~

The contest in Massachusetts is also ~~xx~~ a ^{hot} ~~keen~~ one. There the able and amiable Governor Leaveritt Saltonstall is having a tough fight for reelection against Democratic Mayor Roger Putnam of Springfield.

~~There are~~ ^{Those are} ~~There are~~ a couple of classic American names; ~~for you~~ - Saltonstall and Putnam.

~~Of course, this is not the first tough election fight~~ ^{has} ~~that~~ Saltonstall ~~has been through.~~ In fact, ~~he~~ has been described as a political wonder for having been elected twice already as Republican Governor in a normally Democratic state.

In two of the eastern states there are ^{warm} ~~keen~~ senatorial ^{scrambles.} ~~fights.~~ In Massachusetts, United States

^{8 1/2} Senator Henry Cabot Lodge is fighting hard to hold on to his seat against Representative Joseph E. Casey.

In New Jersey, Albert W. Hawks is giving

ELECTIONS - 3

United States Senator Smathers a hard run for his money.

Probably the light vote means that it will not be long before we know who has been elected, at any rate in the states where voting machines are used.

9
Anyhow here's Hugh.