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PACIFIC

Col. Stoopnagle - Sunoco. Friday, July 2, 1943.

Good Evening, Everybody

Tonight's dispatch about the battle in the far off Solomon Islands uses the familiar expression - zero hour. The United States forces are approaching the decisive phase that should complete the victory - the assault on the Japanese base at Munda.

The first phase has now been completed. This consisted of the landing on Rendova Island, a small bit of tropical land across a narrow channel from Munda a mere five miles. That ^{was} combined with a landing on the larger island, the one on which Munda is situated - New Georgia Island. Our soldiers went ashore there at Viru Harbor, which is on the other side of New Georgia - the opposite side from Munda.

The late news this afternoon repeats that the occupation of Rendova Island has been completed ^{by Regular Army troops,} all resistance crushed. There wasn't so very much, and now all that is left is a few Jap stragglers in the jungle.

On New Georgia island, ^{The Marines} ~~American troops~~ have advanced all day toward Munda. We are told what their marching song was. You can guess it - "While we go marching through New Georgia." ~~Try singing it with the tune, and the "New" added to "Georgia" makes it a little~~

47 ~~crummy.~~ ~~The~~ The old Civil War song is so pat to the present situation in the Solomon Islands that they're singing it lustily - even the Southerners. Sure! Even the Georgians are singing - "While We Go Marching Through New Georgia." And when the boys from Atlanta do that, and take Sherman's march to the sea to their hearts - the song must be mighty pat, if not Mike.

Thus far, the march across New Georgia has not met with much opposition, but ^{it's} ~~it is~~ known that the Japs are in force at Munda, and they are expected to put up the hardest kind of fight to defend that base, which has been one of their key positions in the Solomons.

They are believed to have thirty thousand troops in the central sector of the archipelago, though how many they have at Munda we ~~do not~~ ^{don't} know. The American strategy will be a double blow against Munda, one hurled across the island from Viru Harbor, and the other hurled from nearby Rendova Island - from which United States artillery has been blasting the Jap airfield.

Our planes are in command of the sky. Today they swept the air and found hardly any opposition - this after two defeats the Japs suffered high up in the blue. All told, the Japs have lost a hundred and twenty-three planes, while our loss is ~~only~~ twenty-five.

Today featured the word "American dive bombers", which raided Japanese headquarters at Munda. ^{LAHM-BAY-TEE}
The Jap command is located at a place called Lambati Plantation, a few miles from the airfield. Dauntless ^{LAHM-BAY-TEE} dive bombers hit the ~~Lambati~~ ^{Lambati} Plantation, smashed

defenses and set the main buildings afire.

But the Solomons are only one angle in the far flung Allied offensive which has taken Tróbríand and Woodlark Islands, and has forced a landing on the Jap-controlled sector of the coast of New Guinea.

There, at Nassau Bay, American and Australian patrols are pushing through the jungle-country toward the positions held by the Japs. We learn today that the point at which Americans and Australians landed at Nassau Bay, is between two enemy forces. One is on the northern side of the bay, at **SAL A MAH OO** Salamaua. The other is on the southern side. In other words, the Allied landing thrust was driven | at a point on the coast where it separated the two enemy groups. Today, Americans and Australians pushed north and south - seeking the Japs at Salamaua on the one hand, and thrusting against the southern force on the other.

9 Military men in Washington are highly optimistic in the belief that both at Munda and New Guinea the Japs will be speedily overwhelmed - ^{but} ~~as~~ they expect the enemy to put up the fiercest kind of fight in both places.

SUBSIDIES

The White House won a quick victory in Congress this afternoon, when the lower House voted to sustain a presidential veto of the bill banning subsidies.

Action began when President Roosevelt vetoed the measure forbidding the government to pay subsidies to food producers in its effort to control and roll back prices.

The President accompanied the veto with a blazing message, in which he stigmatized the ban on subsidies in scathing terms. It would have what he called, a devastating effect on our economy and our war effort. And he termed the measure "an inflation bill, a high cost of living bill, and a food shortage bill." This contention was taken in the veto message repeatedly, and in the most vigorous words.

Congress went immediately into action, with the lower House voting on the question of overriding the veto. A two-thirds vote was necessary, meaning a

majority of two hundred and fifty-five. When the count was made, the figure stood - two hundred and twenty-eight against the veto, a hundred and fifty-four to sustain the President. The majority was twenty-seven votes short of the necessary two-thirds, and so the veto was sustained.

The original House majority that passed the anti-subsidy bill was enormous, about six to one. So, obviously, a good many opponents of subsidies changed over, when faced with the veto. So it would seem as if the President's blazing message had an effect. Late Washington comment, however, gives the opinion that a lot of Congressmen began to change their mind shortly after they had passed the original bill. They began to realize that the banning of subsidies would leave the administration without any weapon against the battle of inflation. Also - some lawmakers came around to the

belief that the killing of subsidies, without anything to take their place, would injure the farmer. In any case, there was a legislative change of mind - and the veto was upheld.

That settles it - at least for the time being. Having sustained the veto, action by the Senate is unnecessary.

The ban on subsidies was included in a bill to continue the Commodity Credit Corporation, which is a branch of the Department of Agriculture and lends money to farmers. So the presidential veto not only killed the subsidy ban, but also the continued life of the Commodity Credit Corporation. In his veto message, the President asked Congress to do something to keep the Commodity Credit Corporation alive. He wanted to extend it for two years - with nothing said about subsidies. The latest is - that Congress is taking

action along that line. Immediately after the presidential veto was sustained, the House Banking and Currency Committee met and unanimously recommended that Congress pass a resolution to continue the Credit Corporation until January First, Nineteen Forty-Four. Not for the two years the President asked - but for six months. Meaning - the whole thing to be put off until the first of the year, if Congress adopts the recommendation of the Committee. This is likely to happen.

DRAFT

The Military Affairs Committee of the Senate put its okay today on a bill deferring married-men-with-children from the draft. The measure, sponsored by Senator Wheeler of Montana, would keep fathers from being taken into the army until January First, Nineteen Forty-Four - the first of the year.

WACS

President Roosevelt today signed the measure to make the Wacs a part of the regular army. Right now the soldierettes are an auxiliary corps, which is indicated by the name. Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Hereafter, they'll be called the Women's Army Corps, and the double "A" in Waac will disappear - leaving the ^{pronunciation} ~~pronunciation~~ the same, however.

With the Women's Corps now a part of the regular army, the Wacs are entitled to all the rights and privileges accorded to the soldiers - such as eligibility for pensions.

HITLER

London ~~today~~ makes comment on a question that is often asked - Why not bomb Hitler? ~~Why~~ Why not drop a blockbuster or two on Berchtesgaden, that notorious mountain retreat of the Nazi Fuehrer? British air officials point out that, as a military target, ~~it~~ Berchtesgaden doesn't count for much. Deep in southern Germany, it's a long distance from the air bases in Britain, and gunning for it would hardly be worth the fuel and the bombs. That is - from a strictly military and material point of view. On the other hand, if a blockbuster were to demolish Berchtesgaden, it might have some moral effect.

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This sort of thing, however, is always difficult to calculate. The Nazi bombing of Buckingham Palace, for example, had a decided moral effect - but it was the opposite of what the Germans would have desired. When the King's own palace was hit by high explosive, the

moral of the Londoners bucked up. Many an Allied airman believes that the bombing of Buckingham Palace was accidental. The Germans, they say, are deliberately following a policy of bombing the dock sections, where the poor people live - a thing calculated to disturb the moral of the population. The argument is that even a Nazi would know that bombs aimed at Buckingham Palace and the royal family would only anger the British.

It is possible, of course, that if Allied warplanes were to hit Berchtesgaden, they might get Hitler. One wonders ~~x~~ if Hitler were eliminated, how much of a disadvantage ~~x~~ that would be to Germany. That's hard to tell. In any case, the London experts tell us that the chances of getting Hitler are mighty slim. Many stories are told of deep shelters at Berchtesgaden, tunnels and elevators cut far into the solid rock of the mountain. These subterranean spaces

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are completely out of the reach of bombs, and they
are Hitler's refuge against air raids. In British
aviation circles, they say that when at night Royal
Air Force planes fly far into Germany and conceivably
might approach Berchtesgaden, the Nazi Fuehrer tumbles
out of bed, and scurries down into a shelter - deep
in the rock. If he should stumble and break his
neck, let's hope it will be as fatal as possible.

WEALTH

Here's an interesting question - how much is this country worth? What value shall we put on the good old U.S.A.? It's priceless, as we all know - but then there are always mathematical sharks who insist on expressing things in figures. So how much is this country worth in dollars and cents?

We have an answer from Harold Ickes, who is ~~not~~ ^{only} Secretary of the Interior, ~~and~~ ^{but also} coordinator and administrator of ~~this~~ and that. He gives us an answer. The United States is worth twelve ~~trix~~ trillion and twenty-three billion dollars - not counting the small change you are rattling in your pocket.

Secretary Ickes gives us the breathless facts in an article in the American Magazine. ~~He explains that, thinking about our public debt of a hundred and forty billion dollars, he thought he'd get the figures~~ ^{on} ~~of~~ how much assets we have - the total physical assets

3 ~~of the United States.~~] So he had calculations made and found that if the total value of the United States were paid in one dollar bills, these would make a chain ~~of~~ one billion, a hundred and forty million miles long. The line of one dollar bills would wrap around the earth's equator more than forty-five thousand times.

And he gives a list of items. ⁽¹⁾ Our Number One physical asset is coal, which is valued at ten trillion *(that's a trillion more than a trillion.)* dollars. Then comes iron ore, then public and private buildings, and on down the line with assets like oil - Sunoco, for example. And the items add up to a total of twelve trillion and twenty-three ~~■~~ billion dollars. That's the amount we should get for the United States at a forced sale - not, however, that anybody thinks of selling the country.

(Divide the total amount among the people of the country and how much would it mean for each of us, -?

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eighty-nine thousand dollars for every American.) ^{1/2}

4 { With all those assets, Secretary Ickes argues, the amount of debt we owe and are going to incur is small indeed. The Secretary expresses it in these words: "Put our national debt and the total cost of the war against the wealth that lies in and around the ground of the United States and Alaska, and our obligations will look like the Sunday school collection plate of the swampland church on a bad day." And if you don't know what that means, ask the pastor of the swampland church.

The facts that Ickes gives about the wealth of America may aptly be considered along with Henry Ford's opinion about the possibility of a depression after the war. In an important article printed by Woman's Home Companion, the legendary industrialist insists there is no good reason for a post war depression, and we won't have one if we use reasonable good sense.

SUBMARINE

Stories of the war-of-the-air emphasize one particular point - the danger of bombing at too low an altitude. The plane may be blown up by its own high explosive - and fifteen hundred feet is considered the lowest level of safety. Nevertheless, pilots, determined to make hits, will swoop down to the danger zone and release their bombs, risking the chance of being destroyed ^{themselves} by the bursting charges. That's one great thing with hero stories, and it is dramatised today in the revelation of an exploit by Major Everett W. Holstrom of Tacoma, Washington. Major Holstrom was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross recently for a deed of ^{valor} ~~was~~ that goes ~~way~~ back to a few days after Pearl Harbor, and today the War Department discloses the facts. || Major Holstrom, during our first days in the war, sank a Jap submarine off the coast of Oregon. ~~Thexxxxxxx~~

He attacked at low level and had more to contend with

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than the explosion of his own bombs - a lot more.
He was at eight hundred feet, a great hazard, but he
instantly released his charges of high explosive -
aiming at the enemy submarine ⁱⁿ ~~on~~ the ocean below. Not
only did his bombs explode, which was dangerous enough -
but one of them scored such a square hit that it touched
off the torpedoes in the submarine. So there was a
~~tremendous amount of~~ explosion, ^{double} of ⁵ bombs ^{and} ¹ torpedoes -
which was much more than the Major ever counted on.

The official recommendation for the Distinguished
Flying Cross uses the following phraseology: "The result
of the explosion," it said, "caused Holstrom's airplane
to react very violently." "Very violently" is right -
the blast hit the plane so hard and hurled it with such
power that the pilot lost control, and was on his way
for a plunge into the sea. He was barely able to
straighten out and gain altitude - after that low level
adventure with the explosion, not only of his own bomb,
but of enemy torpedoes.

LETTER

We hear a lot nowadays about the censor and how he mangles letters containing too many things that should be secret. However, Here's a letter that got through the censor.

Somewhere overseas, Machinist's Mate Dale Allen Hawley wrote a letter home to his folks ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ Richmond, Indiana, and he made mighty sure that no censor would go cutting things out of his letter. Here's the way it reads:

"Dead Mom:- I'll describe our place and how we got here. After leaving where we were before we left for here, not knowing we were coming here from there, we couldn't tell whether we had arrived here or not. Nevertheless, we now are here and not there. The weather here is just as it always is at this season. The people here are just like they look.

"I had better close now, before I give too much valuable military information."

At the bottom of the page, the censor wrote -

"Amen."

So long until Monday
~~*And now, Hugh James*~~