

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Good news from the Solomons. Navy and Army bombers have hit six more ships of the Japanese fleet. That makes a total of thirteen altogether.

What is more, they have made a heavy enemy force with draw; though that may be only for the time being.

In other words, the second round of the Battle of the Solomons is going satisfactorily.

However, we don't seem to know whether the ships that withdrew were the main Japanese attacking force or merely a part of it. The Navy Department goes into no detail on this. And a heavy naval battle is said to be still raging somewhere at sea, near the Solomons.

The correspondent of the LONDON STAR, at Sydney, goes all out in a prophecy that the main battle fleets

of Japan and the United States are about to clash, a major battle like the Battle of Jutland -- in the Pacific. The main fleets, ours and that of the enemy, are massing for a decisive showdown; so says the English correspondent, who may know much less about it than his story suggests. Robert Bellaire, former manager of the Tokyo bureau of the United Press, is skeptical. Bellaire has just landed in the United States from the refugee liner GRIPSHOLM after being interned in Japan since last December. From all he could learn, his guess is that the decision will not be reached in or near the Solomons. He believes that what the Japs are aiming at is a union with Germany in the Middle East.

To return to the Solomons:- our Navy, as we know, is cautious and sparing of words. Its communique today warns us that it still is too early to estimate the outcome of the battle going on there, the second round of which began on Monday. A strong

Japanese fleet of transports, cruisers and destroyers approached Guadalcanal from the north. It was promptly attacked by American airplanes both of the marines and the Navy, based on Guadalcanal. That part of the report is particularly interesting.

Which means that our marines are without doubt using the airfield at Guadalcanal which they captured from the Japanese.

Another encouraging bit of news concerns the American fighter planes. The Navy describes their performance as nothing short of outstanding. On Monday they shot down twenty Japanese planes, losing only three. In a second attack yesterday, sixteen two-motored Jap bombers, escorted by twelve Zero fighters, resumed the assault. The result was that our fighters met them, shot down seven enemy bombers and five zero fighters, with a loss of just one fighter plane. In other words, in two engagements, they have shot down thirty-three Jap planes both

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bombers and Zeros, with a loss of only four.

All in all, the Navy tells us, "the results to date of the battle for the retention of our foothold in the southeastern Solomons are encouraging."

CHINA

The Chinese are reported to be driving the Japanese back still further in the Province of Chekiang. Their latest point of attack is the walled city of Chuhsien, an ancient place that is now a vital air center. It was captured by the Japanese last Spring, when they drove south from Hangchow to clear the Chinese out of coastal areas that might be used by the Allies as bases for bombing Japan.

A later report from Chungking brings word that the Japanese are burning Chuhsien. They put the torch to it and the old walled city is now a sea of flames.

EGYPT FOLLOW LEAD

We have been hearing for days that the British in Egypt were expecting another attack by Rommel. But the latest from Cairo is that the British have got the jump on him. They started an intense artillery barrage against the center of Rommel's line, and followed that with a heavy attack on the Axis divisions west of El Alamein.

Taking part are the Maoris, those magnificent natives of New Zealand. The British report that the charge of the fierce Maoris terrified the Italians of the Bologna Division. Sounds like a funny name for a division of soldiers, Bologna. But that is an important Italian city. Anyhow, Rommel evidently thought highly of the Bologna Division because he entrusted them with the holding of the center of the line. But they seem to have acted more like a bologna division in the American sense. The report says laconically that many Italians abandoned their positions. Which is polite language for saying they ran like rabbits. Many of the Bologna troops were killed and wounded and many others

taken prisoner.

Evidently the new Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East, General Sir Harold Alexander, is of the aggressive sort. At any rate, he seems to be trying to make up for his hard luck in Burma where he was obliged to conduct a retreat.

And another bulletin from Cairo tells us that American air men are taking the offensive out there. A bombing force of Uncle Sam's Army planes made a raid on Greece, dumped fifty-thousand pounds of high explosives on enemy shipping in Suda Bay on the north coast of Crete, and also the Corinth Canal.

The news from Egypt must have pleased a visitor who arrived in Washington today; ~~I mean~~ Prime Minister ~~Peter~~ Frazer of New Zealand. He is in ~~the~~ capital to consult with the President on the conduct of the war. In fact, he is to have dinner at the White House tonight. The President and Mrs. Roosevelt were ~~in~~ some doubt as to whether this would be proper in view of the tragic death of the Duke of Kent. So they consulted the State Department and the British Embassy. The embassy replied that the British government and the royal family would not want the death of the Duke to interfere ^{in any way} with the prosecution of the war.

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Prime Minister Frazer was met ceremoniously at the Washington airport. The British Ambassador, the Minister from New Zealand, and Secretary of State Hull were there to greet him.

→ ~~He~~

~~Prime Minister Frazer~~ will sleep at the
White House tonight. ^{IP} At some future date, Prime
Minister ~~Smuts~~ Smuts of the Union of South Africa
and Prime Minister Curtin of Australia will also
come to the United States to consult with the President.
The purpose of these meetings is to draw the British
dominions more closely into the war efforts of the
United Nations.

RUSSIA

The Russians are now digging in for the siege of Stalingrad. They are mustering every resource and every device and every ~~strength~~ ^{sinew} for a defense like that of Sevastopol. There is not ~~a~~ ^{but} doubt that it will be a ~~most~~ ^{fight,} desperate and ~~deadly~~ affair. The Nazis have a battle force of three-quarters of a million men, — seven hundred and fifty thousand fighters in a spearhead with three prongs. At the head of them, Hitler's generals have sent no fewer than twenty-five armored divisions to blast the way. ^{and} That terrific army is closing in on ~~that~~ ^e last great industrial center of the Soviets in the southeast, ^{TP} closing in from three directions. Even spokesmen of the Red Army admit that Hitler's advance-^{now} guards are less than forty miles away from the Volga River. They are ~~advancing~~ ^{approaching} from the northwest, from the west, and ~~fr~~ the southwest. And the crushing pressure ~~that~~ they are bringing to bear is forcing the Soviet

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defenders into a narrower and ever narrower front.

~~Fighting is at its heat not in one place but in many places.~~ The ^{vast} battle may be described as a rectangular affair about a hundred and five miles long and forty miles wide, between the Don River, the Volga, ~~River~~ and the railroad from Stalingrad to Novorossisk.

^{TP} The newspaper of the Red Army claims that Timoshenko's counterattacks have been successful at some points. ~~But,~~ there is no pretense that the situation on the entire front is anything but ~~most~~ critical. ^{TP} ~~Moreover, in the Caucasus the Germans are forging ahead rapidly behind Russian forces retreating south of Krosnodar.~~

The ~~one~~ crushing advantage of the Germans is their great superiority not only in man power but in aircraft.

But there is ^{one bit} ~~a sliver~~ of good news to counter-balance the ominous events at Stalingrad.

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Late this afternoon Radio Moscow broadcast a report that the Red Army had broken through the Nazi defense lines in the Kalinin sector northwest of Moscow. And in doing so ^{had} ~~they~~ killed forty-five thousand Germans. That ^{is} the first report we have heard ^{about} ~~from~~ the northern front in many days. Kalinin is a hundred miles northwest of Moscow. Obviously, this is designed as a strong attack to divert strength from the Nazi advance in the southeast. Moscow even claims that they have routed a German army of nine divisions, probably a hundred and twenty-five thousand men.

DAKAR

Brazil's entry into the war has been answered by the Axis with threats against Dakar, that French naval base and fortress on the West coast of Africa. So far the threat has not gone further than the usual Nazi preliminary tactics of propaganda. This takes the form of broadcasting rumors that the Americans or the British or both are ~~meditating an~~ ^{about to} attack ~~upon~~ Dakar.

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Rumors like that usually precede an attack by the Nazis themselves. There are other reports that the Allies are about to invade Tunisia. But, Dakar is the important point. In a straight line across the South Atlantic, Dakar is only ^{about} seventeen hundred ~~and fifteen~~ ~~sea~~ miles from ~~the bulge of~~ Brazil.

KENT

The British royal court went into formal mourning today for the Duke of Kent, youngest brother of King George. The giant flying boat that was taking the Duke to Iceland crashed only sixty miles from the place where it took off. That came to light today. Only one man aboard survived the crash. ~~That was~~ The rear gunner of the Sunderland plane, a flying lieutenant. He wandered around for three miles, only half-conscious, before he met a searching party which took him to a hospital. Fourteen other men died, on duty, with the Duke of Kent.

ROOSEVELT

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Within the next few weeks, we may expect three radio speeches from President Roosevelt. Next Monday, on August Thirty-First, he will deliver a short one at half past four in the afternoon, just a ten minute affair. Monday is the ~~Hundredth~~ One Hundredth Anniversary of the establishment of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the United States Navy. And the Navy is making it the occasion for the dedication of a new medical center at Bethesda, Maryland. The ~~administration of the Navy~~ ^{is} ~~has been~~ arranging for hospitals, doctors and nurses aboard ships and ^{at} ~~in~~ stations ^{around} ~~all over~~ the world, to hear ^e ~~that~~ broadcast.

Then on September Third, Mr. Roosevelt will broadcast ~~an~~ a talk to the youth of the world — everywhere. He will try to reach not only the young people of the United States and the United Nations,

but those in the occupied countries, ~~too~~ if they can manage to listen without being imprisoned or shot.

~~That~~^e September Third speech will be at twelve-thirty P.M. Eastern War Time. Secretary Steve Early said the authorities are going to try to arrange ~~that~~^{for} this broadcast ~~will~~^{to} be heard by men on ships, men of the coast guard, men in camps, regardless of where they are or what they are doing. The occasion will be the meeting in Washington of the International Student Service.

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On Labor Day, it is expected, the President will talk about inflation. The ^{information} comes partly from Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O., and William Green, President of the A.F. of L. They had a conference with the President today on the stabilization of wages. So far they have reached no ^{labor} conclusion, but they expect to have another try on Thursday.

The labor chiefs emphasized that wage stabilization does not mean freezing. Stabilization, they declare, means adjustment to meet the economic situation, the economic facts.

This news was confirmed by Secretary Early, who announced that Mr. Roosevelt would also send the message on inflation to Congress. However, Early used the word "probably", probably on Labor Day.

The first refugee from Japan to leave the liner GRIPSHOLM today was the Reverend Raymond Moyer of Oberlin, Ohio, a missionary, ^{who had been} ~~He was~~ trapped in Hong Kong when ~~the~~ war ^{came,} ~~broke~~. In the capture of Hong Kong he witnessed plenty of fighting. ^{And} What he saw convinced him that the Japanese had a determined army, much better equipped than the British. They attacked regardless of losses, he said; and ~~they~~ are far better able to fight on insufficient food than Americans.

The GRIPSHOLM passengers for some reason had been instructed by the State Department not to talk about what they had suffered at the hands of the Japanese while prisoners. Nevertheless, one man related that he and four others were kept for sixteen days in a small room with one three-quarter~~s~~ bed.

58 1/2 For two days they had no food, no water, no lights.

After that they had two bowls of rice a day, ~~xxxxxxxx~~

alfalfa stew, a piece of lettuce and occasionally a bit of stale bread. On one occasion, a Japanese officer lined fifteen prisoners up against a wall, including two women, ^{and they} ~~who~~ walked up and down the line smacking their faces because they had looked on while he was grilling some Chinese prisoners, a sight it was impossible for them not to see.

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And now Hugh.