

L.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, Oct. 29, 1942.

On the Island of Guadalcanal, a ferocious Jap attack penetrated the American defenses. - ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> raging enemy cutting through the line held by marines and army troops.

This was the second time they did it, and the story tonight ends as it did before. An American counterattack smashed the Japs who had broken through, and drove them off - back to where they came from.

The Navy bulletin expresses this as follows: <sup>TP</sup> "During the late afternoon, an enemy assault on our positions succeeded in piercing our lines. Army and marine corps troops successfully counterattacked," continues the communique, "and our original positions were gained.

<sup>TP</sup> Two additional enemy thrusts were repulsed, <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ bulletin concludes - picturing continued savage fighting, with the Japs launching repeated assaults in their desperate effort to overwhelm the

American fighting men who are holding so staunchly on that remote South Sea island.

Tonight's Navy bulletin tells of air activity:

"During the morning," it says, "aircraft from Guadalcanal attacked enemy shore installations and enemy aircraft moored in Rekata Bay. Fires were started," it continues, "and four seaplanes <sup>- Japs -</sup> were destroyed on the water."

One significant thing in this is the mention of "aircraft from Guadalcanal." This means that the flying field there, the one we seized from the Japs in the first place, is in operation - with American warplanes taking off, striking at the enemy, and landing. That is a vital strategic factory in the battle - the operation of the Guadalcanal air base, which is the only one we have for close range work against the enemy.

The communique tells of still another air

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assault, which bombed enemy artillery positions west of the flying field. Jap artillery that has been shelling our positions -- day and night.

Tonight's Navy announcement concludes: "No report of any action at sea or landing of enemy troop reinforcements has been received."

While on the subject of the naval battle, let's refer back to a declaration made last night by the head of the Office of War Information, Elmer Davis. Speaking at a N.Y. Times gathering he stated in positive terms that the American fleet out there has sustained no losses other than those announced by the Navy. This to the best of official Washington knowledge. That is, no losses are being withheld from publication -- no news of losses is being delayed. The Navy has told us that the injuries to our fleet consist of severe damage to an aircraft carrier and the sinking of a couple of destroyers. And that is all -- on the authority of Elmer Davis.

The news tonight adds neither optimism nor pessimism to our impression of the great conflict in the Solomon Islands. Misgiving has been expressed because of the fact that the Japs apparently control the sea around the Solomons, and have many advantages in air fighting -- they have numbers of convenient nearby air bases. And the fear has been expressed that our

supply lines may not be able to keep the marines and army soldiers provisioned and ~~in~~ ammunition<sup>ed</sup>, and so they might be overwhelmed. Official Washington is said to harbor some degree of pessimism - with today's news telling that <sup>there</sup> out in Australia they are a great deal more hopeful about the issue of the battle.

Today Secretary of War Stimson dispelled the notion that in our original attack on the Solomon Islands, the Navy acted on its own. In Congress, the charge has been made that the Navy tried to make what a congressman called "a grandstand play." But now the Secretary of War tells us that the plan of the original Solomon Island attack was agreed upon by the army as well as the navy. He states: "The decision to launch the Solomon Islands operation was made by the joint chiefs of staff in accordance with <sup>an</sup> ~~a~~ agreed upon plan - and was not purely a naval decision." In other words,

an Army and Navy plan to begin with. When the operation

*started,*  
~~began,~~

General MacArthur, Army Commander in Australia,

described it as - "a Navy show." By that he must have

meant the Navy was doing the bulk of the work in

beginning the job - not that the Navy was acting on its

own.

over 29

From Egypt, heavy air activity is reported - after the British hurled back a powerful counterattack by the Nazi panzers. ~~Nazi Field Marshal~~ Rommel has not been able to recover important positions he lost during the days of ~~the~~ British ground attack. <sup>TH</sup> The United Nations air activity consists of a series of bombing blows against the Axis communications. They want to keep Rommel from reorganizing his forces for another counterattack, so they are blasting columns of Nazi reinforcements - and paying special attention to convoys of armament and munitions. <sup>TH</sup> Rommel <sup>may</sup> ~~will~~ be running short of supplies - this ~~is~~ indicated by the success of air attacks against ships. Cairo tells of the sinking of another <sup>heavily loaded</sup> Axis vessel, ~~loaded with supplies~~ - and this makes five in five days. That means the loss of a lot of munitions for the panzers on the desert. The ships were on their way to Tobruk, and this is regarded as significant. Tobruk is

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much nearer the British bases and ships going to that port are much more liable to attack. ~~Distant~~ ~~Benghazi~~ ~~is the best place for Axis munitions to land, but~~ ~~anything~~ ~~landed there is slower in getting to the~~ ~~Egyptian~~ ~~battlefront.~~ Tobruk is the faster way. And the fact that the enemy prefers speed to safety is regarded as evidence that Rommel is hard up for supplies, and must take the chance of losing the ships.



RUSSIA

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In Russia the Germans have scored a new advance in the Caucasus. Moscow states that the Red Army forces have ~~xxx~~ retired in the vicinity of a place called Nalchik. The Germans claim that they have captured this place of Nalchik. The location is fifty miles southwest of Mozdok where the Nazi war machine has been held up by stubborn Soviet defense -- halting the Germans in their attempt to drive to the Grozny oil fields.

It is questionable how far the Germans will get in <sup>pushing toward</sup> ~~their attempt to push all the way to~~ the Caspian, ~~Sea,~~ about <sup>a</sup> ~~one~~ hundred and fifty miles East of where they are now. Winter is closing down on the Caucasus. And the mountain sections are deep with many feet of snow. As for cold, Moscow calls the temperatures: "far below zero." And the Russians go on to tell how in the Caucasus Red Army

troops drove forward in a blizzard and found  
~~Nxxxx~~ Nazi soldiers frozen to death in their  
dugouts.

The Stalingrad battle is <sup>in</sup> ~~xx~~ its usual  
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state of bitter attack and dogged defense. Moscow

*relates*  
~~states~~ that the latest German assault accomplished

an advance of between one hundred and two hundred

~~xxx~~ yards. It took two infantry and four tank

divisions to <sup>thrust</sup> ~~force an advance of xx~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ small  
*forward.*

distance. And the Nazis are said to have lost

five battalions in doing so.

## MILITARY TRIALS

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Today the Supreme Court handed down its formal opinion in the case of the eight Nazi saboteurs who were landed by U-boat. Months ago, the high tribunal upheld the right of the President to have them tried by a special military commission - and shortly thereafter six of the eight Nazi agents were executed. But the court, in upholding the President, did not <sup>then</sup> hand down the customary full and formal opinion - outlining the constitutional aspects of the case. This, said the justices, would be forthcoming later - when they'd had time to prepare an appropriate opinion. So now we have it today.

The Supreme Court bases today's opinion on one of the charges made against the saboteurs - the first charge. This alleged - "violation of the law of war." The Nazi agents, sent here on a mission of war against this country, were caught in civilian clothes. And that

is punishable by death -- according to the laws of war. This, the Supreme Court today officially describes in the following words -- "an offense which the President is authorized to order tried by military commission."

The court did not go into the larger aspect of the President's war powers as some had expected.

## ALASKA ROAD

It was announced today that just about the greatest road building project in ~~the~~ history has been completed - the Alcan Highway. "Al" for Alaska, and "can" for Canada. Secretary of War Stimson states that traffic is already moving along the sixteen hundred mile thoroughfare that provides direct communication between Alaska and the United States. Trucks, loaded with ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ munitions, for our troops in Alaska and the Aleutians are rumbling right now amid the mountains and across the desolate wilderness of the north.

Ten thousand soldiers and two thousand civilian workers did the job in slightly over six months. They laid road at the rate of eight miles a ~~ix~~ day, and built bridges across two hundred streams. These are only temporary bridges. They'll stand for a while, <sup>be demolished by ice,</sup> and be replaced by others in regular succession. <sup>TR</sup> "The bridges," said Secretary Stimson today, "are of simple construction

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and will go out when the river ice starts moving in April. However," he added, "other bridges will be waiting, already cut - with machines to set them up."

So the Alaskan Highway will be out of operation during the time when the Spring thaw sends crushing masses of ice down the northern rivers. But that will be only a brief time - and the road will be in operation again. <sup>It</sup> All of which sounds mighty strange to anyone who knew Alaska in former years. I was ~~x~~ up there when hardly more than a boy, and instead of great highways or anything like a thoroughfare all the way to the United States - we thought of travel in terms of sled dogs, ~~for~~ the snow trails of the north, and mushing along in sourdough fashion; — in most parts you were locked in all winter.

DOCTORS

There has been talk about the danger of taking too many doctors into the army - danger to civilian life. And this today was the subject of some vigorous words in a Senate sub-committee report. We are told that too many physicians have been taken into the armed forces - taken in a reckless way. <sup>TR</sup> The sub-committee, headed by Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, puts it in these words: "Haphazardly recruiting of doctors has led to a tremendous, unnecessary ~~and~~ militarization of ~~the~~ the doctor supply at the expense of the civilian population." And the committee speaks of what it calls - "a hoarding and freezing of unused doctors in the armed forces." This may bring about an outbreak of disease. In the words of the committee - "the possibility of a general epidemic similar to the influenza conditions of Nineteen Eighteen."

MRS. R.

We hear some alarming news about Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt in England. She may soon be without any shoes to wear.

When Mrs. Roosevelt flew across the ocean on her visit to war-time Britain, she could take along only a restricted amount of luggage. And she used part of the space for half a case of oranges. These were for the baby son of the late Duke of Kent - which royal infant is a godson of President Roosevelt. Not long ago the Duke of Kent, youngest brother of King George, was killed in an airplane crash -- so the child was left without a father, ~~an orphan~~.

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Orange juice is a normal part of infant diet, and in war beleaguered Britain today oranges are mighty scarce. The few that are obtainable are rationed out to small children. And the baby son of the Duke of Kent is granted the regular ration - which is not much. So what more graceful thing could the President's wife do than take oranges to the



President's godchild?

The half a case used up a considerable portion of the restricted luggage space, and this severely curtailed the amount of clothes that could be taken along. So Mrs. Roosevelt took only one pair of walking shoes -- which now are wearing out. She has been doing a lot of walking. Mrs. Roosevelt always does like to go places -- she is famed for traveling. And in war time Britain, with civilian motor traffic almost out, you get about largely on shoe leather -- which has a habit of wearing out.

At the same time, Mrs. Roosevelt refused to buy new shoes in London -- the British being so short of ~~shoes~~ <sup>them,</sup> Today, her secretary, Malvina Thompson, said: "She feels it would not be fair to take things from the rationed British." And to this the secretary added: "Our shoes are wearing thin, and the uppers are losing shape. We are stuffing them with paper." Just picture it -- soles wearing through, holes in the soles, and the uppers cracking, *and stuffed with paper.*

What they'll do when the shoes wear completely out -- I don't know. But the alarming picture does suggest itself -- Mrs. Roosevelt, the First Lady, trudging about London in her stocking feet! *Fancy*

that! ~~In Bu-Hugh,~~ -- in Buckingham Palace.

ROMANCE

Now here's a question - "If George Washington's socks fall down, how could a fifty year old man hold the love of a young woman of twenty-four?"

That conundrum was suggested by today's proceedings in the McKee divorce trial at Los Angeles. The wife in the case alleges that her husband confessed to her his deep affection for a young lady called - "Muffy." Hubby, telling wifie about it, gave wifie a glowing description of Muffy. He said that, in the words of today's testimony - "she was a great beauty, and wealthy, and had diamonds and castles, in England."

*not Spain!*

Now, who wouldn't fall in love with Muffy - with her beauty, her diamonds, and her castles?

Hubby took Muffy to the mardi gras at New Orleans, and that's where we come to the question of George Washington and the socks. Today wifie testified: "My husband said he had gone to the ball dressed as

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George Washington but that he was embarrassed because his socks had fallen down." Yes, ~~that was bad~~ if you've got the cheek to impersonate the father of your country, you ought to be able to keep your socks up.

58 1/2 Today's testimony came to a soulful culmination when hubby told wifie he was worried about retaining the affections of Muffy - with her beauty, her diamonds and her castles. He asked wifie for advice about it - "How to hold on to a girl of twenty-four like Muffy", as wifie expressed it today. And <sup>wifie</sup> ~~she~~ obligingly told him. ~~how.~~

59 And now Hugh, what ~~"By keeping his clothes well groomed,"~~ will you obligingly tell us, ~~related her testimony, "and by keeping his nails clean."~~

~~Well, pass me the nail file and pull up,~~

~~George Washington's socks.~~