

Russia.

P.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, Dec. 30, 1942.

*Amman*

Moscow today announced a new and slashing advance by red army troops. This occurred in the area southwest of Stalingrad, where a soviet armored drive cut its way through thirty-thousand Nazi troops and captured a german divisional headquarters. Such is the latest of a whole series of success-reports by the Soviets. <sup>TP</sup> Last night for example, we heard of the fall of the key point of Kotelinikovski, a railroad center. The cutting of the railroad is said to complete the trapping of the huge german forces around Stalingrad.

The Soviet offensive effort is a three fold affair. Three drives have been rolling on. <sup>TP</sup> Two have been launched from the north, striking down into the big bend of the Don. Two great Soviet bulges have been created

Air:

Outside of Russia, the bulk of the war news tell<sup>s</sup> of air war. For example, American heavy bombers based on England launched an attack today against the Nazi submarine base at Lorient, France. They blasted things heavily at that key point for Nazi-U-Boats. Then later in the afternoon, an American fighter patrol strafed a Nazi freight train in France with a blasting fire. The last three cars of the train were seen to explode; loaded with munitions, obviously.

In North Africa, Tunisia, ground operations are still bogged down, heavy rains turning the Tunisian earth into a swamp. Today <sup>the</sup> War Department Bulletin tells of artillery fire against Axis held positions northeast of Medjez-El-Bab.

These are the heights that were captured by allied forces on Christmas Eve and later recaptured by the enemy.

The remainder of the Tunisian news concerns operations in the sky. American and British bombers have been smashing at Axis ports and supply lines for the past two days. Y

Yesterday flying fortresses bombed the docks at the port of Sousse, and P-forty fighters made sweeping flights of attack-strafing enemy railroad communications in particular.

Boston bombers made two sorties, smashing up some bridges at one place and hitting an enemy tank depot at another. Today <sup>the</sup> War Department communique states that none of our planes is missing.

At the West African port of Dakar, an american mission is arranging for the use of local airports by our planes. We are told a rather amusing fact about the american occupation of Dakar. The force that did the occupying consisted of brigadier - general Fitzgerald and two sergeants.

The Nazi radio states that a new contingent of american troops arrived at the West African port last night and immediately took over the air fields.

Hopping from Africa across to southern Asia- the news from Burma tells likewise of action on <sup>high</sup>. <sup>high</sup> Today's dispatch from New Delhi describes a raid made by the Tenth United States Air force. Heavy bombers of which hurled explosives on the Japs at Rangoon. Direct hits <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~ scored on two enemy supply ships.

Air

Sheet #4

Now down to the South sea- the Solomon Islands.

Today <sup>3</sup> Navy bulletin describes land action ~~in~~ <sup>consisting</sup>  
of patrol skirmishes <sup>^</sup> nothing important. But in two skirmishes a  
hundred and fourteen Japs were killed, and we lost only two men.  
This sort of disparity of loss is taken as an indication that the  
Japs on GuadalCanal are weakening from lack of munitions. The  
American naval blockade of the Island is so tight that enemy war  
materials can't through to the soldiers ashore.

In the Solomons <sup>as the</sup> ~~in a previous theatre of war, the~~  
accent is on air attacks. A navy communique mentions an  
objective about which we have not heard anything much heretofore.  
This is Wickham Anchorage on the southeast coast of Vangunu Island  
of the New Georgian group of the Solomon's. Vangunu Island is a  
hundred and twenty five miles northwest of GuadalCanal. American planes,  
apparently based on GuadalCanal, made two attacks on enemy vessels, in  
the port of Wickham Anchorage. ~~Two~~ <sup>Two</sup> ~~Two~~  
~~Two attacks on enemy vessels in the port of Wickham Anchorage. Two~~  
ships were sunk.

Submarine -

We hear a lot about the ordeals endured by sailors of torpedoed ships who so often drift on the ocean in open boats. Today the news tells of a new angle of ordeal- castaway mariners wanting to avoid a rescue ship. A British cargo vessel was sunk in the Atlantic and forty one survivors crowded into two life boats. They drifted for four days, and then at night they sighted a ship on the horizon. They flashed signals-using a small red light <sup>that</sup> they had, <sup>and</sup> ~~They~~ blinked out a message stating ~~that~~ they were survivors of a torpedoed ship .

They expected prompt rescue, but they got something else. The vessel on the horizon apparently mistook them for a submarine and opened fire on them. Five shells came whizzing and bursting . Luckily, the aim of the gunners was not good, the shells missed. ~~Then~~ the ship that did the shooting went speeding away. ~~The~~ next day, another vessel was sighted. ~~This~~ time the survivors, frightened by the experience of being shot at, were mighty cautious. Some wanted to keep out of the way of the approaching vessel, wanted to avoid the rescue that was coming. ~~and~~ that certainly was a reversal of the old story of castaway mariners yearning for the sight of a ship. After a debate, the survivors decided that if they maneuvered carefully toward the oncoming vessel, it would be okay; ~~and~~ that <sup>is</sup> the way it turned out. ~~They~~ were picked up.



Photography:

Some miracles of photography were described today at Dayton Ohio. The war has brought about developments that it might have required a hundred years to attain in *peace time.*

So said Colonel George W. Goddard, Director of the photographic research laboratory at Wright Field .

Colonel Goddard told visiting newspapermen of *the new* night-photography that makes pictures as clear in detail as those snapped in daytime, and of infra-red photography that unmasks the cleverest of camouflage.

He put a special emphasis on high altitudes-reconnaissance pictures made from away up there near the stratosphere<sup>t</sup> where observation planes are out of the range of anti-aircraft

*They have* guns. ~~There is~~ *now* a telephoto lens<sup>n</sup> which, used from thirty thousand feet, will photograph the ground so clearly that the outlines of the ties of railroad tracks are seen. ~~and there is a camera~~

~~that photographs with a spherical plate, a curved plate. This could photograph the entire area of Berlin in one exposure-the spherical plate covers that much ground. And at an altitude of thirty thousand feet it will picture an area four hundred miles square.~~

These are some of things that might have taken a hundred ~~100~~ years to develop if it had not been for the war

*Still, most people would rather do without the war.*

The Treasury announced today that the new victory tax will be collected from the first wages paid to an employee after December thirty-first regardless of when the pay was earned. The victory tax, a deduction of five per cent from all wages, goes into effect with the new year. *and* the question was raised:- Suppose an employee's money was earned before the first of the year, and paid to him after the first, should the tax be collected on wages earned before the tax went into effect, or, "should the five percent deduction be made only from money earned after December thirty-first?"

That problem was considered by a conference of treasury officials today, and their decision is that the question of when wages were earned does not count. It is a matter of when they are paid.

For example, the Treasury's own employees have pay day on January Tenth, when they get their wages for a period beginning December Twenty Fifth. Five per cent will be deducted from the amounts they receive.

There are a few exceptions to this Treasury ruling- as for example in the case of companies that pay local employees in cash and distant employees by check. Suppose the cash is paid before the dead line on December thirty-first while the checks do not get to

LAKE PLACID -- WAR

Rain, that is now turning to snow - I hope - caused many people up here in the Adirondacks to take off their ski clothes. And, I was surprised to find how many of them were appearing in Army and Navy uniforms. This caused me to inquire a little today, and I found that nearly everyone I spoke to had a job connected with the war.

For instance, one man I was talking to this afternoon turned out to be Owen R. Skelton, Vice-President of the Chrysler Corporation, who probably has more to do with turning out those powerful new tanks which we are sending to the armies in North Africa, than anyone else.

The next man I stopped was named Harold Sweet, a veteran flyer for Pan-American Airways, just in from China. On his flight across the Himalayas from China this time he brought two English children. Their father had been killed by the Japs and their mother taken prisoner. Missionaries had helped the little children escape and then had passed them across China from one missionary station to



another until finally they were turned over to gallant Captain Harold Sweet of Pan-American who smuggled them out in his plane.

With him was Bill van Dusen of Pan-American -- just in from the Aleutian Islands. Van Dusen was wearing a soft white silk scarf, that attracted my attention because of some jagged holes. When I asked why the holes, he told me it was a piece of parachute silk that had been given to him by a pilot with whom he flew in Alaska. This pilot had been sitting on the parachute without knowing that while he was flying through the sky a Jap bullet had missed him on a hair's breadth and had gone through -- well it missed that part of his anatomy on which he sat and went through his cushion, the parachute. So Van Dusen is not having those holes in his silk scarf repaired!

The next man I encountered was Voit Gilmore, of Pan-American Airways, a recent arrival from the torrid regions of West Africa where he had been for a year. It seems that when Captain Sweet came flying through, homeward-bound from China, he mentioned about hoping to spend Xmas at Lake Placid. And, lor and behold, Gilmore turned up here right after him, to recharge his batteries with some of this vigorous mountain air.

Walking on through the vast corridors of the Lake Placid Club I encountered one of my own neighbors, Cornelius Starr of Brewster, New York, who is entertaining twenty-three refugees from China up here.

Turning into another corridor I encountered Godfrey Dewey, former bobsled racer, who has just turned out a new and simplified script shorthand system to help war stenographers hurry up with their wartime jobs.

A moment later I ran into Hobey Ford, Commodore of the Cruising Club of America, who has given his own big sailing ship to Uncle Sam to help patrol the Atlantic coast. Some oyster fisherman is sailing it as the skipper. Commodore Ford explained to me that the waters off our eastern seacoast are divided up into areas in each of which there is a sailing ship. These, having no engines, are better able to detect German submarines. And when they hear one with their listening apparatus, they flash a signal to the coast and within about five minutes or so planes and speed boats come out to depth bomb the U-boat. Commodore Ford also said that although the average age of the members of the Cruising Club of America is fifty-five, that thirty-three per cent of them are already in active service in the Navy.

Walking on through the Lake Placid Club I encountered Captain R. N. Beck, just in from Australia, an American flyer and squadron Commander who has received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Order of the Purple Heart and other decorations for his deeds in fighting the Japs in the South Pacific.

And, to further illustrate how everyone here seems to have some job connected with the war, sitting beside me right at this moment are six young Norwegian airmen, from little Norway in Toronto, Canada. They are here on their last leave before sailing from Europe to enter the fight against Hitler in the air. All six of these lads escaped from Norway after the Nazis occupied that country, except Per who was picked up in North Africa and interned there until he escaped to Gibraltar, and then to England and Canada. Ola and Jon got across the North Sea by fishing boat. Ragnar, Arvid and Ole all got out of Norway on skis. Then they crossed Sweden, Finland and Russia, then on across Asia, and around the world.

Now they have finished their flying training and will leave soon to go into action.

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Lowell Thoms,

Lake Placid Club Lake Placid NY

BOOKS.

Here is an interesting question - What books are considered unsuitable for the Army and Navy, for soldiers and sailors?

We have an answer today in a report made in connection with the victory book campaign. This drive to collect reading matter for service men begins on January fifth and continues through March fifth.

An advance test was made to see what results could be expected. Norwalk, Connecticut, was chosen for the experiment- the test campaign being staged there. Today the result is announced .

Norwalk has turned in eighteen thousand, three hundred books for the men in the service. Of these less than three per cent are considered unsuitable. This is in bright contrast to the victory book campaign of nineteen fortytwo .

In that literary drive the entire nation contributed ten million books, and of these fifty per cent were found unsuitable for soldiers and sailors .

The principal categories of unsuitability?

One- Cook books. Soldiers and sailors of course are deeply interested in the culinary art; but, they prefer to study it with knife and fork at mess time instead of reading about chow in the pages of a cook book.

Secondly - Children's stories. The troops don't go in for jingles about little Jack Horner. <sup>no and</sup> They don't regale themselves with Mother Goose rhymes or with fairy tales. <sup>nor are they</sup> ~~They are not~~ interested in little Red Riding Hood or Cinderella - -

unless of course Cinderella and her glass slippers happen to come tripping into camp.

*In which event the sergeant would probably try to make a date with her.*



~~In that case the sergeant would probably try to make a~~  
date.

The third type of book considered unsuitable is the old fashioned sentimental novel of Victorian Days, the kind our grandmothers in their girlhood used to read with sighs and tears. Soldiers and sailors <sup>it seems</sup> are not beguiled by the romance of lady vere de vere and lord st elmo, who were pursued by the villainess of the wicked squire of bumble hall.

The regiments of the army and the crews of ships want something more rational, more real, something sound and sensible. ~~like~~ <sup>TP</sup> *Sensible*

<sup>like</sup> "superman", "~~little orphan annie~~" or "Flash Gordon". Some of them even listen to this program.

Parrot

Today in a court at Miami, Ursula<sup>a</sup> Parrot, the novelist and magazine writer, was ordered held for a grand jury trial. Bail - - one thousand dollars. She is charged with having helped a soldier to escape from a military stockade-- where he was being held in detention. She smuggled him out, hidden in her car.

Private Michael Bryan is a musician who has played in prominent jazz orchestras- He strummed a guitar. Taken into the army, he got into difficulties, and was put in the military stockade, for being absent without leave. Moreover, the FBI states that he is wanted in Newyork on a narcotics charge.

Day before yesterday, Monday afternoon, Ursula Parrott drove in her car to the camp at MiamiBeach, and proceeded into the military stockade. She was acquainted with Private Bryan, and was permitted to see him. later she drove out of the stockade, with the soldier# hidden in the back seat of her car. When he was found to be missing, an alarm was sent out and there was a wide-spread search. Yesterday afternoon, the authorities were informed that the novelist intended to turn the soldier ~~in~~<sup>back</sup> to the stockade! and she did

Today Ursula Parrott declared: I want to say that none of this is Private Bryan's fault. . He is a very nice person," said she, and added; "We were only going to dinner and meant to get back sooner."

812  
It was an interesting dinner date, but you could hardly expect the camp commander to see it in that light. So Ursula Parrott is being held for a grand jury trial. She has written quite a few books. One of them called "Ex-Wife" was a sensational best seller. Other of her books were named "Love goes past" and "Strangers may kiss,". To which one may <sup>now</sup> suggest still another title- "Just a date for dinner".

And that's what we all

have now - so s-l-u-t-m.