

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, OCT. 28, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Battle of the Solomons is raging more furiously than ever. Just how fierce it is, we may gather from this: even noncombatant Navy ships are in the thick of the fighting. A couple of United States minesweepers attacked three Japanese destroyers near Guadalcanal. They held the Jap men-o-war until American fighting ships and Navy aircraft came to their rescue and sank two of the destroyers. ~~That~~ happened Sunday.

*— Sunday — a U.S.*

On the same day, ~~a United States~~ Navy tug and a small harbor patrol boat were sunk near Tulagi by a Japanese destroyer. However, the <sup>Jap</sup> ~~destroyer~~ warship was disabled. ~~did not get off Scot free, she was badly damaged.~~

Today's Japanese communique is more confusing than ever. You may remember that yesterday they claimed to have sunk four American aircraft carriers, one battleship and an unidentified ship in a battle off the Santa Cruz Islands east of the Solomons. Today, in the face of having boasted the destruction of the entire United States fleet, the Tokyo command says the naval battle in the southern Pacific still is raging. So their first boast must be false. Then it continues that, as that naval battle still is in progress, the final result cannot be foreseen. So our Navy must still be on the job -- and going strong.

There is one claim in the Japanese communication about which there seems to be no dispute -- that this is one of the greatest of naval battles.

What does Washington say? Well, this for instance. That Japanese losses in the land action on Guadalcanal have been very heavy as compared to our own. Losses both in men and equipment.

And, that the Japs are still coming on. However, their latest thrusts on our positions around Henderson Field have been on a small scale; easily repulsed.

The Navy also adds this: "No report of any other action in the Solomon Island area has been received since the issuance of Navy Department Communique Number 171." That was the communique in which the Navy announced that the Japanese had broken through on the south side of Henderson Field but had been thrown back.

In other words, there is as yet no decision in that crucial battle, which it seems has spread to the east, in the direction of the Fiji Islands, where the United States command has established advance

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bases. <sup>R</sup> Our aircraft attacked a strong Japanese fleet concentration northeast of Guadalcanal, also north of the New Hebrides and the Fiji Islands. <sup>Which is</sup> ~~That has been~~ interpreted <sup>to</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>meaning</sup> that our outposts in the Fijis and the New Hebrides are in danger. <sup>If</sup> ~~if that is~~ true, <sup>that would be a threat to</sup> ~~the enemy is threatening~~ the lifeline ~~of~~ between America and Australia.

<sup>another</sup> There was a conference at the White House today.

Members of the Pacific War Council met with President Roosevelt and discussed that crucial battle <sup>in the far</sup> ~~among the~~

<sup>south Pacific</sup> ~~islands~~ A reporter asked the Minister from New Zealand

whether there was any tone of optimism at that

meeting. To that the New Zealand Minister replied:

"No, just realism." <sup>R</sup> The Chinese Ambassador told

newspapermen that there was a good deal of discussion

<sup>of</sup> ~~about~~ the Battle of the Solomons. But <sup>that</sup> they also talked

<sup>over</sup> ~~about~~ post-war reconstruction throughout the world.

MEW GUINEA

General MacArthur's forces are pounding away at the Japanese in New Guinea. After a month of fighting in the jungles of the Owen Stanley Mountain <sup>S</sup>range, the Japs are still making <sup>a stiff fight for it,</sup> ~~a most determined stand~~. At dawn yesterday, the vanguard of the Australian units attacked and pushed the Japs back a short distance south of the enemy base at Kokota. <sup>TP</sup> In the last four weeks, the Japs

have been able to entrench themselves in strong positions. <sup>TP</sup> The Australian infantry ~~was~~ supported by low flying bombers, flying at tree-top height, <sup>and carrying</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>as well as</sup> cannon ~~and~~ machineguns. The planes known as Beaufighters also attacked the Japanese base at Lae, set <sup>ting to</sup> ~~fire~~ <sup>to</sup> three barges, <sup>also</sup> ~~exploded~~ an ammunition dump, and silenced <sup>an</sup> anti-aircraft battery.

Nine ~~XXXX~~ <sup>the</sup> Japanese bombers raided Port Darwin for the fourth time in as many days. <sup>Doing</sup> ~~They did~~ only minor

damage. On the other hand, Allied medium bombers carried out a raid on Jap positions in the Island of Timor.



BURMA

Japanese air fleets have been busy again in  
Burma and Assam, <sup>up there on</sup> the northeast frontier of India.

They have raided American installations in those parts.

The presumption is that they are trying to knock out  
the American ferry command which is carrying materials

into China. Since Japan got control of the Burma Road,

the American ferry command has been the only way of

getting munitions to Chiang Kai-shek. <sup>R</sup> The Chinese Air

Force retaliated with an attack on the important

Japanese air base in the southern part of the province

of Shansi; ~~it is~~ <sup>it</sup> the biggest Japanese air center in

that part of China. The Jap raids on Burma and Assam

were driven out without loss to American or British

arms.

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EAST INDIES

*now look upon*

The Japanese ~~consider~~ the Dutch East Indies as ~~now an~~ integral part of the Mikado's Empire. *That is*

*that* they consider ~~the~~ fighting ~~is~~ all over in Java and the other islands of that rich archipelago. This news

is brought by a Dutch Infantry officer who escaped and made his way to General MacArthur's headquarters

*He said that*

in Australia. *When the Japs* first occupied the islands they enforced a curfew between sunset and

sunrise. That now has been abolished. *And* all blackouts

*cancelled, also*

have been ~~stopped~~. The Japanese are rebuilding factories, oil fields and other ~~xxxxx~~ production

*He added that*

centers. They are trying to win over the natives with

the slogan - "Asia for the Asiatics."

*He tells of*

*rice* vegetables, and fresh meat *being* plentiful. *Rice,* Europeans *as far* they

are not allowed to operate any business. *And* People *now*

without money or jobs are given one meal a day at the

Municipal kitchens.

Such is the first result of Japanese so-called

*Co-*  
~~great~~ prosperity in the Malaya Archipelago.

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EGYPT

In the Egyptian desert British General

Montgomery's army has driven still deeper wedges into

*Rommel's*  
the Alamein line of ~~Nazi Marsh Rommel's Afrika Korps~~

*seems to be trying to*  
Montgomery is ~~doing his derndest to~~ come to actual

*Rommel's main*  
grips with ~~the Axis~~ Army. But so far Rommel has

refused to give battle. The Axis Army tried several

times on Monday to make a counter attack. But each

time their forces were concentrated and ready to go

they were blasted out of position by the Royal Air

Force, backed up by American flyers.

Tank fighting is on the increase in the desert. But it has not yet reached the point of an all out battle.

Military spokesmen in London are guessing that General Montgomery is maneuvering to try to draw Rommel's Afrika Korps into <sup>a</sup> battle of annihilation. In other words *that* the Eighth Imperial Army is ready to go all out and stake everything on the outcome of the head on struggle.



RUSSIA

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Soviet Marshal Timoshenko's relief army is fighting its way to the rescue of the defenders of

Stalingrad, <sup>and</sup> ~~it~~ is advancing along a broad front. <sup>The</sup> news is that <sup>^</sup> Timoshenko is now northwest of the beleaguered city, with two hundred

tanks. The communique from Moscow reports that ~~he~~ captured another point that had been strongly fortified by the Nazis; <sup>also that</sup> ~~The~~ Red reinforcements are driving the

Germans out of their trenches and dugouts between the Don River and the Volga. <sup>IF</sup> ~~Its~~ <sup>thus</sup> advance <sup>we hear,</sup> has been slow

because the Germans were strongly established <sup>and</sup> in considerable depth. Also, they had as many tanks

northwest of Stalingrad as Timoshenko. <sup>still, the</sup> ~~For all that,~~ news is that the Red reinforcements are advancing. <sup>IF</sup> In the fight

for one village, the Russians killed seven thousand Germans and Rumanians and destroyed two hundred and seven Nazi tanks. <sup>and, that</sup> The Rumanians have been counter-

attacking but their counter-attacks were repelled.

MILAN

The Royal Air Force raid on Milan last Sunday did far more damage than <sup>Rome</sup> ~~the Mussolini Government~~ would admit. A story about the after-effects of those raids comes through Switzerland. It reports that the British Lancaster bombers did tremendous damage in the commercial and industrial centers of the historic old Lombard city. <sup>Leaving</sup> ~~They left~~ more than five thousand people homeless. <sup>H</sup> One newspaper, published in the Italian-speaking part of Switzerland, reported <sup>S</sup> that one squadron of ~~the~~ British bombers was led by Giacomo Matteotti. He is the son of the Deputy Matteotti who was murdered by order of Mussolini in Nineteen <sup>It seems this comes from</sup> Twenty-Four. ~~This fact came out through~~ <sup>^</sup> a Polish pilot who took part in the raid, ~~he~~ was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near the ~~xxxx~~ frontier of Italy and Switzerland, <sup>and</sup> ~~but he~~ managed to get across ~~to~~ the Swiss border, <sup>where he is now</sup> ~~and was~~ interned.

PIPELINE

The War Production Board <sup>is</sup> ~~has finally~~ given <sup>ing</sup> consideration to the needs of people on the east coast for oil. <sup>and</sup> Production Chief Donald Nelson ~~announced that~~ <sup>he</sup> has approved an extension of the big oil pipeline from Texas to Norris City, Illinois. It will be extended eight hundred and fifty-seven miles to some point in the New York-Philadelphia refining district. The last leg of the line from Texas to Illinois, will probably be completed in December. Work will begin immediately on the extension to the east coast.

<sup>all</sup> This is due in considerable measure to the urgings of Secretary Ickes as Petroleum Coordinator.

<sup>Ickes</sup> ~~He~~ has been one of the principal champions of the pipeline all the way from Texas to the east coast, <sup>urging it now for a year or more?</sup> ~~for upwards of a year and a half~~ Up to now the War Production Board <sup>had</sup> refused to clear the steel for the eastern extension of the line.

But Secretary Ickes also hands us a warning. The new line, even when completed, cannot be counted upon to deliver unrestricted petroleum supplies for civilian use. Its primary function, he said, ~~ix~~ first, last and always, must be to insure adequate supplies for our armed forces and for the basic needs of civilian transport and health. But, he added, that it would also release many ocean-going tankers now assigned to the hauling of oil from Gulf ports.

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That alone, <sup>See.</sup> said Ickes, is justification enough for the extension of the line at this time.

BATT

Some people in Washington are advocating the proposal that economic cooperation between countries may be carried on even after the war is won. The idea was expressed today by William L. Batt, Vice-Chairman of the War Production Board. The way he put it is, that the principle of ~~the~~ international economic cooperation may very well be maintained during post war reconstruction.

Batt is the representative of the United States on the Raw Materials Board. A reporter asked him whether production of war munitions has been held up by shortages of raw materials. <sup>To this</sup> Batt would not reply yes or no. <sup>^</sup> But he did say that at the present time our supplies of raw materials are very largely the measure of our war program, and he <sup>admitted:</sup> ~~added:~~ <sup>^</sup> "We could use more raw materials if we had them."



OKLAHOMA

Governor Leon Phillips of Oklahoma is going to  
in his ~~dry~~ dry state. In

enforce prohibition on military reservations, ~~He has~~

*fact he has*

told his dry raiders to raid even the officers' messes.

*He says they have ~~done~~ that his*  
In fact, they have already done so. The dry police of

Oklahoma nabbed a shipment of two hundred and twenty-five

cases of whiskey billed to the officers' mess at Fort

Sill, Oklahoma.

## AIR CRASH

There were repercussions on both shores of the country today from the air crash that killed twelve people near Palm Springs, California, last Friday. The ferry division of the Air Transport Command ~~has~~ appointed a board of Army officers to investigate. They announced that they found the crash was caused by a collision in mid-air between an Army bomber piloted by Second Lieutenant W.N. Wilson and an American Airlines passenger plane. ~~The~~ charge of manslaughter has been brought against the young lieutenant.

A congressional committee also assembled today at Los Angeles to investigate. One Congressman said, the collision shows that it is necessary for Congress to formulate traffic rules for the air, to control air space as we now control navigable waters. In fact, plans are already under way for just such a

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law. It is pointed out that this will be particularly  
necessary after the war. <sup>when thousands</sup> ~~Hundreds~~ of flyers will  
return to civil life, <sup>when probably</sup> and the air <sup>will</sup> be filled with  
planes.

ARNOLD FOLLOW GABLE

General Arnold gave out some interesting figures about our Army Air Force <sup>today.</sup> He said that by the end of Nineteen Forty-Three, we ~~would~~ <sup>will</sup> have two million, five hundred thousand officers and men. <sup>Which</sup> ~~That~~ would be one-third of the total strength of Uncle Sam's Army.

Arnold made some interesting comparisons. He pointed out that in Nineteen Thirty-Eight, the entire officer corps of the Air Force numbered only eighteen hundred members. <sup>And</sup> The class which graduated at Miami Beach today numbered two thousand, five hundred, <sup>— but that's another story.</sup> including ~~Clark Gable.~~ <sup>^</sup> The General told the new officers that they are now ready to get in the punch and take their place in the game, ~~and he added:~~

"<sup>"</sup>It is <sup>T</sup>he toughest, roughest game you will ever be called to play in," <sup>said Hap Arnold,</sup> head of Uncle Sam's flying forces.

GABLE

And one of the graduates today was ~~who~~

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He Clark Gable, is now a Second Lieutenant, in case you are interested. And millions are. received his commission today in the presence of the

head of the ~~XXXX~~ Uncle Sam's Army Air Corps,

Lieutenant-General Hap Arnold himself. There was a

large audience, some two thousand people, to see the

movie hero accept his commission. Most of them were

women. It took <sup>Clark Gable</sup> ~~him~~ only seventy-two days to win his

<sup>that is</sup> commission, from the day that he put on the uniform of

an officer candidate.

58 1/2 It is reported that the day he went in, he

looked askance at the pair of pants the sergeant handed

him because they were oversize. But the top kicker

reassured the movie star: "They will shrink, and so will

~~will~~ you!" Sounds like an Army sergeant.

P.S. The top kick was right. It may interest

the ladies to learn that their pet has lost eighteen

59 pounds. <sup>It</sup> And now from Clark Gable let's turn to Hugh James.