

L.T. SUNOCO, Monday, November 16, 1942

Good Evening, Everybody:

The United States fleet has just fired the last shot in a tremendous naval battle against a strong Japanese force ^{off Guadalcanal} And we have won what one reporter describes as the greatest naval victory of the war -- perhaps of all time.

Those, by the way, are not the words of the Navy, which is more temperate in what it says. More conservative. Anyhow, the score is imposing -- with an overwhelming majority of losses on the enemy side. So let's take the story as the Navy tells it:-

During the early days of this month our scout planes espied a heavy Japanese task force in the waters around New Britain and the northwestern Solomons. There were numerous transports and cargo ships as well as warships. It was evident to the

American command out there that the Japs were setting forth on a determined effort to drive us out of Guadalcanal and Tulagi -- out of the Solomons.

By November tenth it became obvious the expedition was being launched in force. One Japanese fleet approached the southeastern Solomons from the north. Other squadrons, including many transports, were steaming southeastward toward Guadalcanal from Rabaul and Buin in New Britain. It was there that the Japs had been assembling their armada.

While the Nipponese were getting ready, General MacArthur's army bombers made one attack after another on ships of their invasion fleet based on x Rabaul and Buin.

The spearhead of the Japanese attack consisted of two battleships of the Kongo class. With them were a number of other vessels believed to have been two heavy cruisers, four light cruisers, and about ten destroyers.

Well, this fleet reached the Guadalcanal area shortly before midnight on the morning of

November thirteenth. And the Japanese plan was to bombard our shore positions on Guadalcanal to soften them up for a large-scale landing. And, a huge group of transports had been observed near Buin.

The Japanese bombardment ships were in three groups. As they approached, they were met by a part of our fleet, and the battle that followed was fought at close range. It was during this engagement that Rear Admiral Daniel J. Callaghan was killed in action.

The Navy report says that during the first furious night engagement the Japanese appeared confused. So much so that during the latter part of the battle two of the three Jap groups were actually firing at each other.

Shortly after that the enemy ceased fire and withdrew from the battle; retiring to the north.

All day on November thirteenth, American aircraft swooped down on damaged Japanese warships which remained in the area, battering them with bombs. During the late afternoon of November thirteenth

a large fleet of at least twelve enemy transports under heavy warship escort steamed towards Guadalcanal from Bougainville, ~~This is the~~ largest of the Solomon Islands ^{and} where the Japs have their strongest positions.

Again, shortly after midnight, November Fourteenth, another enemy naval fleet bombarded our positions in Guadalcanal. When daylight came the twelve enemy transports approached ~~x~~ the island. ~~xx~~ Suddenly and swiftly our own aircraft struck and with incredible speed sank at least eight ^{of those} ~~Japanese~~ transports. ^{Those} ~~The~~ transports that survived continued on their way.

The following night American warships again tackled an enemy fleet near Guadalcanal. The Navy is not yet informed of the details in that engagement. But on the following morning four enemy cargo transports were found beached about seven and a half miles west of our positions on Guadalcanal. The moment they were spotted they were attacked by air, by artillery from

And -
the ground and by naval gun fire. They were
destroyed. ^{That} ~~On the~~ same morning ^{U.S.} ~~our~~ scout planes
reported that the ~~Japanese~~ fleet was withdrawing to
the northward. ^{Since then} No reports of any further action have
been received.

The biggest thrill of all comes ^{at} ~~in~~ the end
of the story: - ~~It is~~ ^{The} list of enemy losses. ^{It includes}
One Jap battleship sunk; three Jap heavy cruisers sunk;
~~two Jap light cruisers sunk;~~ ^{Also four cargo ships.}
~~five destroyers sunk; eight transports sunk.~~ One
battleship ^a ~~damged~~, six destroyers ~~damged~~, four cargo
transports destroyed. To sum up a total of twenty-
three enemy ships destroyed, seven damaged.

^{include}
Our own losses ~~are~~ two light cruisers and six
destroyers. ^{Those} ~~Two~~ are the only United States naval
vessels reported destroyed in ^{this great running} ~~those actions.~~
battle.

AFRICA

In Africa, our own American regiments are by this time at grips with the Germans and Italians. [The British and Americans rolled over the border into Tunisia today. Instead of meeting a skeleton force, as we were given to expect last week, they encountered a whole division of ten thousand Axis troops. Berlin claims that the Nazis and Italians did not wait for us to come, but launched a counter-attack somewhere near Bizerte. At any rate, the fight is on.] Just what part our own men have in the battle, we do not know in detail. The British First Army forms the spearhead of Lieutenant-General Kenneth Anderson's column. He is aiming first for the French air bases around Bizerte, which would be the obvious tactics of the battle.

At the same time, a big naval engagement is going on off the Algerian coast. That information comes from the Axis radios. Our own high command says nothing

about it. But it seems the Italian fleet, strengthened by Nazi submarines, has gone into action against a strong naval force of British and American warships and transports preparing to land reinforcements in Algeria.

The presence of that Axis division in Tunisia is ~~directly contrary to all~~ ^{somewhat different to} the information ~~we were~~ ^{then} ~~given~~ last week. According to what we ^{then} heard, reconnaissance reports indicated ~~that~~ the Germans were evacuating men from Bizerte and Tunis rather than bringing them in. Obviously, the opposite was the fact. Hitler has elected ~~the~~ ^{to} stand in Tunis, ~~for all he is~~ ^{as long as} ~~he can.~~ ^{worth,} He evidently hopes to hold off the British-American armies; ~~he~~ hopes to resist there long enough either to bring heavy reinforcements from the eastern front in Russia or to strengthen his defenses in ~~a~~ the comparatively weakly fortified countries of southern

Europe facing the Mediterranean.

British General Anderson reports that the first air battles came out favorably for our side. British and American planes have destroyed a total of sixty-one Axis planes. But the Germans already have considerable air force on the spot and are hastily sending in new troops by air.

A communique from General Eisenhower reports that Major General Patton, the American Commander in West Africa, was nearly killed at Casablanca several days ago. He was coming ashore in a small boat to direct landing operations. Shellfire from a French warship caught his ship. There was a two-hour battle but at the end of it, the ship carrying General Patton was the winner. He made his way to shore on the flank of a sharp land engagement and won it soon after he had landed.

ADD AFRICA

Late this afternoon, London issued a bulletin admitting that the British fleet had suffered losses in the western Mediterranean. But, it added, the Anglo-American force still controls the area. The Admiralty did not say how heavy the losses had been.

But Allied headquarters announced that the ship losses had been light considering the scale of operations. Evidently a major naval battle. Casualties were small.

The communique adds that United States mobile units are with the British First Army on its advance into Tunisia. Also, small military units of French troops have begun to cooperate with the eastern and center task forces.

FRENCH

A complicated political situation has developed in North Africa around the French leaders there. As *you know,* ~~everybody will recall~~ Admiral Darlan is now head man of the French in North Africa, with the consent of our own high command. The first thing we heard this morning was that he had appointed General Henri Giraud to the command of all the French forces there. In assuming this command, General Giraud announced that *a* ~~the~~ great French colonial army was joining the Allies to reap final victory.

This provoked a proclamation from Marshal Petain at Vichy, *repudiating* ~~stripping~~ Admiral Darlan, ~~of all his functions,~~ ~~including his military command.~~ Petain is quoted as having denied that he was acting under compulsion. He is quoted as having used these words: "I am not a man to give way to compulsion." And he added: "To insinuate the contrary, is to make me appear

contemptible." The statement reads further: "The Admiral thus places himself outside the French national community." And it adds: "I declare him deprived of all his public functions and his military command."

The next thing we heard was that several prominent French politicians had escaped from Vichy and gone to Africa to take part in forming a new French government there. Among them, according to one story, was the former French Premier, Camille Chautemps. But Chautemps is in the United States and has refrained from any political activity since he came here.

The next news, coming from Stockholm and other places, was that former French Premier Pierre Flandin had joined French Africa. Also Pierre Pucheu, who was Minister of the Interior under Petain, ~~once upon a time~~. During the Munich crisis, Flandin was prominent among

those in favor of appeasing the Nazis. Pucheu has been just as long an advocate of collaborating with Hitler.

Meanwhile, in London, General Charles DeGaulle of the French National Committee, went to Downing Street for a conference with Prime Minister Winston Churchill. After leaving Downing Street, a statement was issued, saying: "General DeGaulle and the French National Committee announce that they are taking no part whatsoever nor assuming any responsibility for negotiations in North Africa with representatives from Vichy."

A broadcast from Berlin gave indications that the Nazis were about to remove Petain. The Nazi radio made no outright statement but threw out hints that the aged Marshal may not be able to continue his duties as head of the French state. It added: "It may be assumed ~~xxxx~~ with certainty that the problem of succession to the chief of state may be solved." Which, of course, ~~mean~~

means that the Nazis will insist on appointing a successor to Petain.

At the same time, French diplomats in America were proclaiming their allégiance to Admiral Darlan.

All six military and naval attachés of the Vichy French Embassy in Washington, declared that they considered Darlan the only official of the French government free to speak.

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Along with the Ambassador, all these attachés have been preparing to go to Hershey, Pennsylvania, where they are to be interned until they can be returned to France. They have asked Admiral Darlan to intervene in their behalf.

In addition to the six military and naval attachés, ten civilian members of the Embassy staff have notified the State Department that they would give their allegiance to any provisional government which may be set up outside France.

ITALY

A broadcast from Italy was overheard, warning the Italian people that their security ~~is~~ is now threatened. "In connection with the incursion of American troops in French North African possessions," it said, "we are threatened with a conflagration of our own house in Italy."

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The Fascists^{also} mentioned over the air that both Italian and German troops had been landed in Tunisia, with the consent of the French military and civil authorities there.

The Fascist High Command today admitted that the British planes which raided Genoa last night inflicted great damage.

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Five thousand people at the Annual Forum of the NEW YORK HERALD*TRIBUNE at the Waldorf today heard some interesting news about rubber. Today's session opened with President Hopkins of Dartmouth and ended with the Nation's new Rubber Czar, William M. Jeffers, who tells us that chemists are opening up a vast new field that will be developed and expanded when the war is over. And that never again will we have to depend upon any foreign land for rubber.

The theme of this year's Forum is: "Our Fight for Survival in a Free World."

Another of the speakers was Sir Stafford Cripps, British Lord Privy Seal and leader of the House of Commons. He spoke by radio from England. One thing he said was that the first step ~~we~~ we have to take after the war is to lay a sound foundation for a society of nations. However, he added, it must be done slowly.

ADD FORUM

The keynote speech was delivered by the distinguished ^{Pres,} ~~Dr. Arthur~~ Hopkins, ~~President~~ of Dartmouth, ^{who} ~~College.~~ He pointed out that we have been plunged into this terrific global war because in the decades following the last war we ~~ix~~ had an utterly unreal conception of our immunities, to say nothing of our responsibilities. So what we need primarily for building a post-war world, he said, is reality.

He continued:- "If our power be intelligently developed, and responsibly held, the people of America will be possessed of the greatest opportunity ever presented to any people upon the face of the earth to make its name glorious through all time. ~~Let us~~ dwell constantly upon the thought that this could be. If intelligently and discriminately, America should utilize its might for the establishment of a brave, clean world, wherein, within the limits of the common ~~xxx~~

HOOVER FOLLOW FORUM

Pres. Roosevelt's

The proposal was made today that Secretary

Mr.

of Agriculture Wickard be made Food Administrator for

And the nation. The suggestion comes from none other than

former President Herbert Hoover, who was Food ~~Administrator~~

Mr. Hoover makes Administrator during the last war. ~~He made~~ this plea in

a letter published today in the December issue of *that*
widely read
magazine "Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife."

said the Ex-President,
Secretary Wickard, ~~said Hoover~~ should

have complete control of all phases of food production,
distribution, government purchase, prices and rationing.

"The lack of coordination and the conflict between
government bureaus", he added, "are now limiting and
will even reduce, rather than increase, our annual
products."

The former President gave instances of the
division of authority and the conflicts between various
government agencies that had to do with share control

of our food.

When the Ex-President's letter was read in Washington, it became known that War Production Chief Donald Nelson has already been urging the appointment of a civilian food director. But, we learn, no such appointment will be made for the time being. However, an Administrator may be nominated to direct our food exports, meaning another bureau.

Sec. of Agric. Wickard spoke in N.Y. today — urging all of us to save food — he spoke at the Herald-Tribune Forum.

POLL TAX

Southern Senators today proceeded with their filibuster against the poll tax bill, the bill to stop the States from insisting on payment of a poll tax before allowing a citizen to vote.

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The filibuster so far has consisted largely of calling for a quorum on each and every vote, with the demand for a quorum sounded three times within one-half hour.

The leader in this is Bilbo of Mississippi, who has already been talking against the bill for two days. Today Bilbo of Mississippi came to the Senate Chamber loaded with an armful of papers and books, announcing that he intended to go on speaking thirty days.

872 With him was a secretary carrying another armful of oratorical amunition.

A reporter told him there were rumors abroad that he had a secret speechifying weapon with which he expects to defeat the bill. Bilbo replied: "Huh! The only weapon I have, Suh, is hot air."

To which he added: "I am half French and half Irish,
and I get my loquacity from the French and my audacity
from the Irish."

Now a little loquacity
from you Hugh.