

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, AUG. 28, 1942

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY;

The Battle of the Solomon Islands apparently was renewed with greater fury than ever today. This follows the beating off of enemy forces -- Jap warships hit hard and fleeing north. But they have returned in greater strength, far greater -- in what seems to be something of an all-out gamble for victory. This is the gist of what we find in news dispatches that come from American naval headquarters in New Zealand and from Washington; but the Navy Department says it has no reports about the new battle. New Zealand explains that there have been three phases of the Battle of the Solomons -- with the third phase in action right now. The first consisted of Jap landings on Guadalcanal -- throwing in troops and trying to oust the marines from the

island they seized from the Japs. This enemy landing-affair was a failure -- the Japs were beaten. So the first phase was a success for us. The news dispatch from New Zealand calls it -- " a limited victory."

In the second phase, the Jap enemy sailed down with warships, and a sea and air battle was on .

This was the clash that sent the foe scurrying. Our big bombers blasted their ships, heavy damage inflicted - and the Japs beat a retreat.

Today, we have word from Washington that, while this was a ^{success,} ~~victory,~~ it is not to be regarded as a major triumph. Why? Because the Jap naval units that were driven off ^{were} ~~was~~ not a big fleet. The enemy move did not constitute a major offensive. It was a "reconnaissance in force" by Jap warships, a sort of big-time scouting operation. ^R This explanation was given today by a high official in the United States government, and the indications are that the enemy purpose in making a reconnaissance in force was to feel out the strength of American sea power in the Solomon area - find out how much there was of it. And that takes us to the third phase.

The Japs have returned to the attack in what would appear to be an all-out gamble for a big victory. Apparently, they think they have found out the strength of our naval and air power around the Solomons, and believe they have a chance - making it a worthwhile gamble. This interpretation comes from New Zealand, and goes on to say that the purpose of the Japs is probably not merely to recapture the island they lost,

They have something bigger in mind. They have come

steaming
~~sailing~~ in great force in the hope of wiping out the

concentration of American naval power in those distant

waters. *and* That ~~is the~~ *the large* large meaning given to the battle

that is now going on. *TR* Few facts about the engagement

are made public - everything shrouded in military

secrecy. But a New Zealand news dispatch from across

the Pacific today uses these words:- "An official

source in close contact with operations took a most optimistic attitude."

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BAMBOO BASE

We have some Washinton military comment about a wild and wooly idea attributed to the Japs. They are said to have devised floating air bases made of bamboo, ~~moveable islands from which squadrons of war planes can operate.~~

The story of this nine-day Japanese wonder comes from the Chinese, who explain by saying that the enemy has lost so many first-line aircraft carriers that he has had to resort to the bamboo contraptions -- the floating ~~xxx~~ air base islands being towed from place to place by ships.

The Washington military comment is given with a cheerful smile. Officers point out that such floating bamboo islands would be unsea-worthy. ~~(They could hardly have the structural strength to stand the beating of the towering waves and the storm.)~~ ^{in a} Nor could they stand the pounding given by planes taking off and landing. ~~It requires something mighty firm~~

~~underneath to take the shock and impact of heavy plane operations.~~

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And the Washington observers grin as they point out what excellent targets the floating islands would be. In necessity they'd be slow -- virtually stationery. And can you imagine what would happen if a husky bomb were to land in the wooden structure? You'd see bamboo flying all over the place.

CHINA

The Chinese announce a great victory. They have recaptured the two greatest airports of eastern China -- at the cities of Chuhsien and Lishui. These are key air bases for the intended bombing of Japan.

The recapture of Chuhsien and Lishui comes as a climax of an astonishing six week operation, a brilliantly sustained offensive launched by Chiang Kai-shek. Six weeks of driving back the Japs, and during that time the Chinese have retaken seventeen towns in the provinces of Kiangsi and Chekiang.

RUSSIA

The German war machine has been stopped in front of Stalingrad, and the Nazis are resorting to violent air action. Unable thus far to capture the city, they are trying to destroy it. And ~~the big City of~~ Stalingrad is being devastated from end to end. ^H Moscow reports that the bombing is being carried out according to extremely methodical plan. Apparently, the Germans mapped the ^{place} ~~city~~ into zones, and are blasting these systematically - one zone after another. They hit first at the heart of the city, with its up-to-date buildings.

Obviously, the purpose of the huge air action is to disorganize the system of Stalingrad defense. They are devastating the city to help their ground forces capture it. Those ground forces have not scored an advance in twenty-four hours - so says Moscow.

^H The Red Army is hurling back the invader in ~~the a~~

stone wall stand. However, the ~~GRR~~ Nazis are mighty

near to Stalingrad - with Moscow telling of assaults repelled at the very approaches of the city.

The Germans themselves are saying that the capture of Stalingrad is a harder and longer operation than they expected. This is reported by the Berlin

correspondent of a Stockholm newspaper. He quotes German military sources as stating the following:-

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"Owing to bunkers, tank ditches, mine fields and tenacious resistance, the fall of the city must not be counted upon within the next few days." Such is the Nazi statement, with accent on - "tenacious resistance."

Now about the Soviet counter-attack in the north, above Moscow. The Russians are still advancing. The offensive is now in its sixteenth day - and still gaining momentum, says Moscow. Red Army troops are ~~still~~ battling their way into the City of Rzhev - with bitter street fighting. The Russians, however, do not

expect to complete their ~~full~~ success any too quickly. The Germans are sure to employ all their strength in defending the City of Rzhev, because that place is of great importance as a center of communications. For example, Moscow explains that the immediate purpose of the Soviet drive is to recapture a stretch of railroad. ~~This is~~ vital for German transport.

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Still further to the north, another Soviet offensive is reported. This news comes from Berlin via Sweden. Red Army forces have opened an attack against that all-important place called Schlisselberg - which is the anchor for the Nazi siege lines in front of Leningrad. If the Soviets could break through at Schlisselberg, it would relieve Leningrad - and end the long siege of Russia's second largest city.

FOLLOW RUSSIA

Here is something from a German propaganda broadcast -- a most unreliable source, obviously. It states that ~~the~~^a commander has been named for British-American invasion forces -- a leader selected to direct a second front operation. Who is the Commander that Nazi propaganda names? ^{Why} General George C. Marshall, United States Chief of Staff. ^{we are told} ~~It~~ ~~told~~ that the appointment ~~is~~ has been okayed by British Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt and Stalin. ^{By} ~~By~~ their decision our Chief of Staff, General Marshall becomes the Commander of the Invasion army for a Second Front, -- so say the Nazis.

MEATLESS DAY

Today we hear that we are likely to have a meatless day -- one day a week without meat. This was stated by President Roosevelt, and he explained the reason why.

It is not directly because of a shortage of meat in this country. It ^{is all} ~~is~~ because of the shortage of ships -- the idea being to save ^{cargo} ~~shipping~~ space.

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How are cargo vessels involved in the meat problem?

It is this way: At many places on the United Nations front, like Great Britain, meat supplies have to be brought in from overseas. Right now a great deal of this consists of importations from far away places -- like Australia and South America. Much shipping space is used for these long hauls, and much could be saved by shortening the distance.

For example, supply Great Britain with meat from the United States -- send it across the comparative^{ly} short space of the North Atlantic. This, of course, would involve a huge exportation of meat from this

country, and would not leave enough here to provide for the normal civilian consumption. Hence, this consumption would have to be cut down -- by means of instituting one meatless day a week.

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The President said that plans for this were being studied. He was asked when we might expect the meatless days to begin. He replied that ~~xx~~ he couldn't say, did not know. The plan has not gone far enough for a date to be considered. ~~The time element is still undecided.~~

INFLATION

President Roosevelt today did some clarifying on the subject of his new anti-inflation program. Yesterday the President stated that it would include a stabilization of wages and of farm prices. Did that mean freezing? Did it mean that wages and farm prices would be rigidly fixed, kept right where they are? The answer is - No.

Today the President stated that wage stabilizationⁿ would be flexible. In some cases, wages might be allowed to rise -- when considered just and proper and not inflationary. And this also applies to farm prices. They will be restricted in a flexible fashion. ~~The President explained that it would be a case of establishing a ratio between farm prices and the cost of living.~~

ROMANCE

The cabled news from war-time London tells us what a girl was planning to do tonight. She intended to go to the movies - alone, all by herself, no boy friend in tow. She said she would be home by nine thirty, and be mighty prompt about it, ~~so she~~^{to} would be there when the telephone rang. She would be sitting, ~~and~~ waiting for that telephone call.

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All of which might seem to be rather girlish and trivial for a London news bulletin in war-time. However, let us observe the one from whom the girl expected the telephone call. ~~He is~~ Gerald Lascelles, son of the Earl of Harwood. His mother is the sister of King George. So he is the nephew of the sovereign of Great Britain, and is in fact in line of succession to the British throne - ~~the~~ tenth in line. His telephone call tonight is part of ^a ~~the~~ story of romance - and ^{royal} ~~that is~~ *romance is always a headline.*
~~a real headline.~~

~~It is~~ ^{But so} not much of a headline in England, where one newspaper printed the story and then quickly withdrew it - by request. It told that the nephew of the King, who is eighteen years old, had become engaged to the seventeen year old daughter of a British Army lieutenant. She is a commoner - he royalty - and they could not get married without permission. Whether they would get that permission seemed highly doubtful - ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{consent of} ~~son of~~ the Earl of Harwood and ^a ~~nephew of~~ King George.

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Today, American newspaper correspondents in London procured an account of young romance. Gerald Lascelles and June Morris met on a bus. That ^{'s} ~~is~~ stated by the girl's mother. "June and Gerald really did meet on top of a bus," says Mrs. Morris. "It was," she goes on, "a case of love at first sight because June did not know who Gerald was." June found that out later. She introduced him to other girls, and one is

quoted as saying: "He is a handsome fellow, and a good pick for any girl." As why wouldn't he be - nephew of the King, and tenth in line of succession to the throne of England.

After falling in love at first sight, the young couple went around together constantly - to movies, dances, theatres. And the London story specifies - they went always by bus, the way they had met. Gerald called at June's home about three times a week, and then they became engaged - two weeks ago. They knew they could not be legally married without special permission. But they were determined. June's mother today told how Gerald said: "I am quite prepared to go through with this, and leave the country if necessary."

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She is a war worker in a canteen, and he is now being called into the Army. So he is away. But he telephones her every evening. And tonight June made sure to be home at the time to receive the call from him.

~~telephones her every evening and tonight June made sure to be home at the time to receive the call from him.~~

WAVES

Today at Northampton, Massachusetts, the training of the Waves began, not the sea waves, nor yet the permanent waves -- but the sailor girl Waves. And one bit of news is that Commander Gene Tunney is scheduled to supervise a physical fitness program for them. The former heavyweight champion of the world will teach the girls the art of being strong and husky, if not the science of scoring knockouts with a punch to the jaw.

We have likewise a fashion note about the Waves. Their uniforms will be of navy blue, with a hat derived from old navy tradition. It is modeled after the navy cap the American sailor wore in Eighteen Seventy -- a tri-corn hat, three cornered.

This hat-fashion-theme leads to a comparison. There is that other organization of service women, The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps -- the Waacs. How will the caps of the Waves show up against those of the Waacs? That would seem to be a dangerous

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comparison to fool around with -- considering the sharp way the girls have when they size up each other's hats.

Here, however, is something official -- a statement today by an officer in command of the Waves. Talking of their headgear, he said:- "The hats are good looking, whereas those of the other organizations, in my opinion -- look like the dickens." That ~~is~~ is an opinion of the Navy Waves about the caps of the Army Waacs.

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It is rather well known that the Army and Navy can occasionally get into an argument. And soldiers and sailors do sometimes start swinging at each other. So now what about the soldierettes and sailorettes? Suppose a Wave should walk up to a Waac and quote today's official comment, and say, "Your hat, in my opinion, looks like the dickens."

Well, maybe that ~~is~~ is why they are sending Commander Gene Tunney to put the Waves into training. And now, I'll turn the air waves over to you, Hugh.

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