

P.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Feb. 9, 1943.

NORTH AFRICA

From North Africa there are ~~insistent~~ insistent rumors that the British eighth army, pushing from Libya into Tunisia, is launching a major blow against its old enemy-- Rommel's north africa korps. This Nazi outfit is at the mareth line which the french built against insvasion from Libya.

Other news tells about air action,-- with General Jimmy Doolittle's twelfth american air force continuing its heavy blows against axis war centers in Tunisia. And a united states air force communique announces new air blows aimed at fascist italy. Rome states that the cities of Messina and Palermo were raided twice.

~~and~~

RUSSIA

The latest Russian advance is in the Kharkov area. A late Soviet bulletin this evening announces the capture of the ancient city of Belgorod. This is an important railroad junction forty-five miles north of Kharkov. Moscow comments that Belgorod, strongly situated on a hill, was the last big obstacle between advancing Red army forces and their major objective in that sector -- Kharkov, the industrial metropolis of the Ukraine.

If the Nazi war machine should lose Kharkov it would mean as much as the Soviet capture of Kursk -- the dominating stronghold further to the north. Indeed, the whole Nazi line south of Moscow hangs on Kursk, Kharkov and Rostov. This last place seems on the verge of falling, with Red army troops circling the outskirts of Rostov, key to the Caucasus.

GUADALCANAL

Tonight's late navy bulletin, Just in, tells of military moves on Guadalcanal Island- yesterday and the day before. On those two days, United States forces tightened their lines west of Cape Esperance, and advanced their positions along the Usami River. Meaning, that yesterday and the day before American Troops closed in to Complete the task of wiping out the ~~few~~ Japs that remained on Guadalcanal. And this fits in with the word today that War on that south sea Island has about ended.

TP So the curtain falls on the drama of Guadalcanal. This-- after a last act as spectatular as any climax that preceded it. For days there were intimations of a mighty sea-battle. The news of far flung clashes^S of ocean and sky had the world in suspense and mystification. They now turn out to have been a pageant accompanying the Jap evacuation of the Island.

It is fairly clear that the wide and ominous sea and air activities of the far eastern enemy were some kind of cover for the removal of Japs from Guadalcanal-- whatever was left of them. Secretary Knox stated today that when he was out there recently, only four or five thousand of the enemy survived-- out of

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fifteen thousand they are believed to have had when the battle was at its height.

The Japs state definitely that they transferred their troops from Guadalacanal, and Secretary Knox indicated today that this may have been the case-- some of the Japs may have got out.

On the other hand, ~~Toyko~~ simultaneously announced that the Japs at Buna had been transferred.

But at Buna in
~~But at that place~~ ~~NEW GUINEA~~ New Guinea ~~place~~ they were crushed, wiped out, as we know-- ~~Mighty few surviving~~ for any getaway.

TP Our victory on Guadalacanal is a striking one. During weeks of desperate fighting on the Island and on the Ocean and in the Air, the issue was in the balance. ~~of fate.~~ It would not have been surprising if our original small landing force of marines had been expelled ~~out-numbered~~ *For they were* ~~as they were.~~ Future accounts may reveal that it was decidedly astonishing that their

positions at Henderson field were not crushed and overwhelmed.

TP But, they hung on, while the navy smashed one powerful attempt after another by the Japanese fleet to storm to the Island shore-and-land reinforcements.

And, american air forces shot down swarms of Zeros and Bombers. These Japanese attempts of Oceanic thrusts at Guadalcanal Resulted in some of the most spectacular sea battles in history.

~~Then at the very end it seemed as if another, on a still more grandiose scale, was about to break out-- a bigger clash than ever. When the new flare of Jap action began last week, with the novelty of night air attacks on Ships, the Navy at First thought an all-out offensive to ward Guadalcanal was preparing.~~

~~The widespread skirmishing over immednse areas of Ocean continued-- but the major force of the enemy did not appear for a mighty clash. Now apparently we know the secret. Instead of sparring for an attempted all-out victory, the Japs were maneuvering in An admission of defeat-- Going through moves in the evacuation of what was left of their soldiers on the South ~~Quaxlax~~ sea isle.~~

Tokyo puts as good a face as it can on the matter, saying that its forces have withdrawn for new strategies. And Tokyo is undoubtedly right about new strategies. The elimination of the Japs from Guadalacanal means, first of all, defensive success for us, ending

the Jap-island-hopping that once was so ~~terrible~~ threatening,

And, it opens the way for us to thrust forward with new blows

against ^{more} ~~the~~ Jap Island bases. ~~This is a consequence of the~~

~~event of Guadalcanal and also general Macarthur's success in~~

~~Wiping out the Japs in the Buna Buna area on the Northern Coast~~

~~of New Guinea--~~ Providing springboards for New allied advances.

FOLLOW GUADALCANAL

As a sort of swan song on Guadalcanal, ^{Here's} a news dispatch delayed for quite a-while. It has just got to this country, and can be well told today in memory of the many fights on that south sea Island, and in homage to the innumerable deeds of valor.

The story tells of an incident in the final stage of the Guadalcanal battle. Its hero is Private John Yaksich of Detroit, who acted against orders, when he silenced a Jap machine gun position single-handed and wiped out its crew all by himself.

Private Yaksich confesses as follows to the military crime of disobeying orders: "We were advancing along a knoll," says he, " when we ran into Jap machine guns. It was late, so we ducked in for the night. The Japs, " he continues, " Were in some woods where their guns commanded a clearing through which we had to pass. Someone had to get them out of there. Seven volunteered, but the mission was refused."

Private Yaksich knew that the officers didn't want the men to make the attempt- because it was too dangerous. ^{John} he realized that they did 'nt want ^{to} sacrifice lives needlessly. But ^{John} he figured things differently, ^{for himself}

" I had an idea I could do some good," he relates, " So just before the sun came up I went out alone. I guess I shouldn't have done it,

RETAKE

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He admits, " but, I knew that if I were to ask to go they wouldn't let me. so I told my buddy to give the word that I was out there, but not until I was too far to be called back. "

He made his way to the Jap machine gun post with such skill and caution that the enemy soldiers never suspected a thing- until the very devil broke loose.

" I crept up to the emplacement," relates Private Yaksich, " shoved my rifle into the dugout and pumped five shots in. My rifle was empty, so I tossed a grenade- and then charged in on them."

Between the bullets and the exploding grenade, the Japs were in bad shape when Private Yaksich jumped in among them. He disposed of what was left of the gun crew, then got away in a hail of bullets from nearby snipers, and returned to his lines-- afraid of that reprimand.

That's the story- and it's a good one to round up the news that the Japs are out of Guadalcanal.

note:

~~This bit will serve the purpose of the story I asked Electra to mention.~~

MERCK

Some sort of a record was broken today, a record in the American Chemical World. Just by coincidence, right at the moment when the Merck Chemical plant in Rahway, New Jersey, where so many medicines ~~make~~ for our armed forces are turned out, just when the Surgeon General of the United States, General Magee, and Admiral Sheldon of the Navy were presenting the Army - Navy E award, word came in that both other Merck plants, in Philadelphia and Virginia where more medicines are made with which to save the lives of our armed

forces, ^{the word came that they} ~~they~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ too, on the same day, were notified

by Washington that they are to receive the Army-Navy E, — the award which so far has been given to less than two percent of all the plants in America that are busy on the war effort.

~~They make medicines for the lads~~

~~I have just heard another story of magnificent heroism, a story about two marines on Guadalcanal, out in the region where our boys are so desperately in need of ammunition, food supplies, airplanes, medicines, and everything we can send them. In the fighting on Guadalcanal, Private Harry Dunn of the U. S. Marines was out with a patrol. Suddenly he found himself all alone, in the pitch blackness of night. All alone except that there were Japs all around.~~

fighting out in the Solomons.

INVESTIGATION

The House of Representatives today voted an investigation

of Government employees accused of being mixed up with ~~subversive group~~ ^{subversive groups}

such as communists. These employees are to be dismissed if the charges

against them are found to be true, ^{all} of which is in line with the

Dies ~~Ways~~ committee accusations that a number of officials employed by

the Government are more or less red.

In the debate today, arguments centered around ^W William Pickens, a negro bond promotion specialist, who has already been voted off the payroll of the treasury. William Pickens is accused of communist affiliations. Various legislators argued today that the Negro bond specialist should be given a chance to answer the charges ^{made} against him.

end

Wages

The War Labor board today refused to grant wage increases demanded by Chicago Meat Packer Unions. The Meat Packers asked Pay boosts of from ten to twenty cents an hour. This is decidedly above the ceiling of wages. The war labor board is holding to what is called "the little steel formula," which formula limits wage increases to fifteen percent above the pay received on January first, nineteen forty-one.

~~Today, the Board stated: "It has become increasingly evident that the stabilization of our domestic economy can be accomplished only by a determination to maintain ^{present} ~~present~~ levels."~~

~~And therefore the wage increase demanded by the Meat Packers was denied.~~

~~As an alternative,~~ the Board suggested a way of increasing the amounts of money the employees of the packing companies receive.

~~Now?~~ By having them work longer hours- and make overtime. The

W L B pointed out that the meat packers seldom work more than forty hours a week.

There

The rejection of the Wage increase brought a prompt statement from Chicago ^{where} Union secretary Patrick J. Gorman raised the threat of a strike. Speaking of the Meat Packers, he said: "They will not take it lying down. No one can prevent them from striking, if that is their decision," he added.

~~Obviously, a meat strike would be mighty serious, especially *as we already* ~~we~~ have a national meat shortage. The Union official said that a walkout in Chicago would be likely to spread to other cities, where meat packer wage increases are being asked. "I wouldn't ^{to} care ~~say~~ just what will happen," he remarked.~~

end

A statement was made in Washington today that it will be impossible as things are going, for the American farmer to do what is expected of him. He is required to feed the United States and the United Nations and supply food to the Starving peoples of Europe after the war is over. "Impossible," said Senator Bankhead of Alabama.

~~Bankhead~~
He had just attended a senate sub-committee hearing at which testimony had been given by Ex-Governor Lehman of New York, who is now Director of the Office Of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation. Director Lehman told the Sub-Committee the Amounts of food he thought the stricken Nations would need.

Senator Bankhead strongly supported the reasonings advanced by Former President Herbert Hoover yesterday. The former President argued that it would be impossible for us to build an armed force of about ¹elven million men and still feed this country and the United Nations, and Provide post-war food relief. Endorsing the Hoover findings, Bankhead decried officials who demand more food production and at the same time keep taking labor from the farms. "These officials," said he, "who are crying for more , more farm production, don't tell us how to get ^{the} men to do it."

CLARE LUCE

A maiden speech by a member of Congress is seldom a thing to write home about -- or talk on the air about. But there's one new legislator whose first speech has been awaited with interest and curiosity -- Clare Luce, the ornate blonde writer of plays, witty and wise-cracking. And today was the day. The lady from Connecticut talked about American air policy, and flung some verbal fireworks at Vice-President Wallace and his recent proposal of - freedom of the air. Said the sprightly Clare Luce:- "His global thinking is -- no matter how thin you slice it -- globaloney."

And she got around to the warp and the woof of it by speaking of Wallace's "warp of sense and woof of ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ nonsense." And then, referring to the intermittancy of the spasmodic, she said: "He has a wholly disarming way of being intermittently inspiring and spasmodically sounds."

In response to that, would you say that Clare
Luce was all clarity and lucidity?

SULLIVANS

For the first time in history, a United States warship is

— with the letter "S."

to have a name in the plural form, a name ending in the plural ~~ship~~.

A new destroyer is to be called-- "The Sullivans," *Yes, you've all guessed it,* after the five Sullivan

the cruiser Taneau, brothers who were lost on ~~a warship~~ in the Solomons. Their mother, Mrs

Thomas F. Sullivan, has been invited to do the christening.

Once previously a United States warship was named after five

brothers-- Five O'Briens who fought in the first naval engagement of the

Revolutionary war. The destroyer christened in their honor was called--

The O'Brien. Now we'll have one in plural form -- USS The Sullivans.

*The O'Briens and the Sullivans have sure
made ~~history~~ history for Uncle Sam!*

CHICKENS

Today at Joliet, Illinois, two Japanese named Azuma and Nakoshima asked the local rationing board to let them have all the motor fuel they needed for driving around. It's mighty hard these days for a Smith or a Jones, descended from the pilgrim fathers, to get gas, but Azuma and Nakoshima got it. How come? because Azuma and Nakoshima can tell whether a newly hatched chicken is a rooster or a hen.

The two Japanese who are american born, told the Joliet rationing board that they possess an ^c ~~and~~ _A ancient Japanese secret by which they can determine the Sex of chickens right out of the egg. And this makes their services valuable to hatcheries, enabling them to guarantee the chickens they sell as either roosters or egg layers. ^{Which} ~~this~~ _{is} is useful to the nation's war effort, said Azuma and Nakoshima.

They were asked- how could they tell whether a chicken emerging from the egg was destined to crow or cackle? ^{To which they} ~~The~~ replied: "It's a military secret." I don't know if they meant ~~that~~ that to be a joke. Smith or Jones, in attempting a ~~wizzisz~~ ^{or} witicism ~~of~~ _{the} subject, would probably have said, "It's a fowl secret."

Azuma and Nakoshima asked the rationing board for "C" Cards and presented letters from thirty egg hatcheries.

he rationing board took the " C " card request under advisement and
eanwhile let Azuma and Nakoshima have enough gasoline for fifteen
undred miles of driving.

So it really looks as if they do have a way of solving the
rooster and hen mystery, even if not the question of which

came first, the chicken or the egg. ~~If you answer that one, you can
get a million gallons of gas, I suppose.~~

And e-l-u-tomorrow,

end