

AFRICA

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, Dec. 11, 1942.

The battle in Tunisia is still impeded by rain and mud, ~~a~~ slow^{ed} down to a halt at most places today.

In one sector, however, American armored forces scored a sharp success. At a place called Medjez El Bab, the Nazi pan^zcers[^] launched a strong attack - a two-way assault. From different directions two tank columns hit our position. They made a little progress and then were stopped by American counter-attacks led by General Grant tanks and supported by strong artillery fire. The Nazis, after being repelled, retired.

47
The Germans at the tip of Tunisia, after having pressed our battleline back somewhat, are getting reinforcements. So we hear from Allied headquarters. ^{and,} They are maintaining their temporary superiority in the air, which gives the Nazi troops what our headquarters describes as - "a strong psychological lift."

However

The enemy psychology seems to be ~~the~~ ~~different~~,
~~not at all~~ *reverse of* lifted, at the other side of the North

African war zone - over ~~xxxxxx~~ in the east, where Rommel's Afrika Korps is facing the British Eighth Army in Libya. British General Montgomery is bringing up increasing forces for a final attempt to smash Rommel, and is pursuing a policy of constant small scale activity, unending quick thrusts by patrols.

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The Germans are showing, what tonight's Cairo dispatch calls, "extreme nervousness." *FF* How does an army display nervousness? We are told that the Germans are laying down artillery fire at the slightest provocation. The moment there is any disturbance, they go banging away with their guns. *FF* At night they fill the sky with flares, lighting up the desert constantly - as if they were afraid of the dark. Such are the signs of that - "extreme nervousness."

48

Which is
~~It is~~

all quite understandable. With the British getting ready to smash Rommel from the East and the Americans in Tunisia preparing to drive against him from the west, you can hardly blame the Nazis for being nervous.

ROOSEVELT STORY

Over in France, the conquered and oppressed people are reading a story smuggled in from abroad. This bit of literature was issued by the United States Office of War Information, and has been circulated secretly in France as an expression of American friendship toward the French people. The story is called - "The Flame." And it has a distinguished author - the President of the United States.

President Roosevelt tells the French people about a candle burning in an old French church - a perpetual candle, the kind that is renewed and burns for years. It was lighted in honor of the United States Navy, and presumably it is still lighted - unless the Nazis have put it out.

The presidential story is as follows:

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"Early in August of Nineteen Eighteen, I, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, was making an inspection of the

United States Naval and Air Stations on the coast of Brittany. As I proceeded from one station to another," the President continues, "our pilot-car unfortunately knocked down an elderly priest - injuring him slightly." ^{TR} President Roosevelt goes on to tell how

he offered compensation to the old priest, - ^{who} ~~and he~~ [^] replied that he wanted nothing from the American Navy, which was helping to save France. Whereupon he was asked - Could the Navy do anything for his church?

^{Then} [^] The old priest ^{answered:-} ~~replied;~~ ^{only} [^] "Oh, if I could have a little contribution toward a fund I have been gathering all my life to have the stained glass ~~windows~~ ^{windows} releaded."

President Roosevelt remarks that the stained glass windows were medieval treasures and had not been releaded since about Seventeen Fifty.

"I asked the old priest," writes the President,

the United States and smuggled in to the oppressed
people of France.

SAN FRANCISCO

51
Today the bravest ship in the United States Navy put into a home port to be repaired and receive a decoration. The heavy cruiser SAN FRANCISCO - which is to be the first American vessel of war to be decorated for heroism in the present conflict. That same SAN FRANCISCO which played the star part in the Battle of the Solomons, when twenty-eight enemy ships were sunk. The SAN FRANCISCO herself blew up a Jap cruiser, sank a destroyer, and so badly crippled a battleship that destroyers were able to finish off the monster. She was the flagship of Admiral Callahan, who was killed on his bridge in the wild sea battle at night.

The dramatic story has often been told how, because of the death of the Admiral and the Captain of the SAN FRANCISCO, a young Lieutenant-Commander took charge of the ship, and in fact directed the

movements of the American column through the rest of the battle. ~~xxxxxxx~~ He today was the special hero as the cruiser SAN FRANCISCO put into ~~xxx~~ the port after which it was named.

At San Francisco, Lieutenant-Commander McCandless of Washington, D.C. ^{how they obeyed} told ~~of~~ Admiral Callahan's last command. "We want to get the big ones; go after the battleships," said the Admiral.

And that's what they did -- closing with a big Japanese battleship and firing at close range.

~~Lieutenant McCandless stated today that~~ The battleship was firing at the SAN FRANCISCO from the starboard bow; a Jap cruiser was blazing away on the starboard quarter; and a destroyer was shooting at the SAN FRANCISCO on the port side. ^{our Cruiser} ~~The SAN FRANCISCO~~ was heavily hit, and tried ~~xxx~~ to straighten out the formation of American ~~xxx~~ warships. ^{TP} "Admiral Callahan ordered us to fire at the

big ones first," said McCandless today, "and we resumed firing."

Then he explained about his taking command of the flagship. He stated that when the Admiral and the Captain were killed, the next in line to command was not himself - but Lieutenant-Commander H.E.Schonland, who ^{was} ~~is~~ senior to McCandless. Schonland, however, had to go below deck to supervise the control of the damage. He left McCandless in charge.

SOLOMONS

53
Out in the Solomon Islands, our marines and regular army soldiers continue their daily battles against the Japs on Guadalcanal Island. Today we are told by our Commander, Major-General Vandergrift, that the Japs on the island have lost at least seven thousand troops - ten to one for every American killed, and another dispatch states that a party of marine raiders conducted hostilities ^{for weeks} against the enemy in the deepest jungle, and killed some four hundred Japs and captured three artillery positions.

SOLOMON ADVENTURE

On Guadalcanal Island, during some night fighting, Corporal Robert Pāpe of Brooklyn found himself isolated and crawled under a house to keep clear of Japanese machine gun fire. He was lying in the darkness, when sixteen other soldiers crawled under the house. The Corporal didn't know whether they were Americans or Japs until he heard them talk. They were Japs - taking refuge from American machine ~~gun~~ gun fire. They didn't see Corporal Pape as he lay in the black corner - ^{as he lay there} hoping they would go, ^{which} ~~but~~ they didn't.

54
Came the dawn, as they used to say in the old silent pictures. As the morning light grew brighter, the Corporal figured the game was up. So he began inching his way from under the house - in the faint hope of getting away. That was when the Japs spotted him - and ~~they~~ opened fire. A bullet

hit the Corporal in the leg, and he yelled. The shooting, plus the yells, attracted the attention of Americans nearby ^{who} ~~They~~ turned a machine gun on the Japs, and killed them all. And out limped Corporal Pape.

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Here is a twist of coincidence pertaining to the Solomon Islands and the marines. The forthcoming issue of the ~~motion picture~~ "March of Time", is all about the leathernecks. ~~The~~ One scene shows the marines rehearsing an attack, ~~They are doing it~~ at Solomons Island in Chesapeake Bay. So there is a coincidence. ~~for you~~. At Solomons Island ~~they~~ practiced <sup>ing</sup> ~~ed~~ for an attack on the Solomon Islands.

NEW GUINEA

In New Guinea, Australian and American forces, having captured the Jap strong point of Gona, are now closing in on the other place - Buna.

The Japs at Buna launched a counter-attack, but this was beaten back by General MacArthur's men - who are now pushing on to eliminate the last of Jap control along an important stretch of the north <sup>coast.</sup> ~~New Guinea~~

~~coast.~~

## NEW GUINEA HOSPITAL

From ~~at~~ New Guinea we have stories of courage at military hospitals, fortitude displayed by doctors and patients in the jungle war. One of these accounts, flashing on the wire today, is a classic.

At a battlefield field hospital, a United States Army surgeon, Captain William F. Edwards of Albany, Indiana, was taking a piece of shrapnel out of a soldier. No anesthetic - the soldier enduring the ordeal grimly. While the operation was going on, a Jap warplane attacked the hospital - strafing it with machine guns. The doctor, quite unperturbed, kept on operating. When the Jap planes were gone, and the doctor had done with the shrapnel wound, the soldier said: "Doctor, I guess you'd better fix up this new one too." *Whereupon the patient* ~~And he~~ pointed to a place where a machine gun bullet had pierced his shoulder while he *there* lay on the operating table.

PHILLIPS

President Roosevelt has appointed an ambassador to India - and this is something of an innovation. The diplomat named is William C. Phillips, who was American Ambassador to Rome until the state of war between this country and the Fascist kingdom.

We have had a mission at New Delhi for over a year now, and this ~~New~~-Ambassador Phillips will head. President Roosevelt says that he will not carry to India any special plan or ~~formula~~ formula for <sup>any</sup> ~~the~~ solution to any ~~of the~~ India<sup>n</sup> problem. He merely goes to represent the United States in that vast land which is such a puzzle to the United Nations. *and especially to Americans who know practically nothing about it.*



OVERSEAS

President Roosevelt today sent a message to Congress about Lend-Lease. He tells Congress that, during the past three months, we have sent Lend-Lease assistance to our Allies abroad to the tune of two million, three hundred and sixty-seven million dollars' worth. This represents an increase of more than one-third over the previous three months, and it is more than four times the total for the four months that immediately preceded Pearl Harbor.

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The President's report shows that we are sending to our Allies a total of war materials amounting to ten billion dollars' worth a year. *Which* is about fifteen per cent of the total war money that ~~the~~ nation is spending. In other words, about one-seventh of the United States war effort goes into Lend-Lease.

In his message to Congress, the President

disclosed that, by the end of this month, American forces overseas will number more than a million.

Take the fighting men we have in those many places <sup>from</sup> ~~in~~ the Solomon Islands to northern Ireland, and they will <sup>total</sup> ~~amount to~~ a million ~~men~~ by the first of the year.

REGISTRATION

Today began the Selective Service registration of the young fellows <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ have reached their eighteenth birthday since July First. Six hundred thousand of them will go on record for the draft. During the week beginning today and on through next Tuesday, those who became eighteen between July First and August Thirty-First, will appear before draft boards. *Others later on.*

58 { The following week, December Eighteen to December Twenty-Fourth, will be registration time for those who attained eighteen years between September First and October Thirty-First.

{ Christmas is skipped as a registration day, and then December Sixth will begin another period - when youths who have become Eighteen between November First and December Thirty-First will go on record.

17 Thereafter, there will be no further registration <sup>periods</sup>

for the Eighteen year olds. As each lad arrives at that age, he will register with his draft board on his birthday.

~~The registration beginning today is the sixth under Selective Service and the first under the new Manpower set-up, which now has jurisdiction over Selective Service.~~

BANANAS

Here is one that seems like a gross exaggeration, but it's reported factually from England. At the town of Bath, an auction was held today, the proceeds to buy sports equipment for British troops. The most valuable items put up for sale to the highest bidder were - two bananas. They were bid up to eight Pounds Sterling, the two bananas going for approximately thirty-two dollars. That tropical yellow fruit is scarce over here too, but in Britain a banana is a ~~treasure~~ not only yellow, it's almost golden.

RADIO

8 1/2  
From Chicago comes the story of an exasperated policeman. At a station house <sup>today</sup> he was broadcasting instructions to radio police cars. One car failed to respond. The cop at the microphone called that car repeatedly, growing more angry all the time. Finally he bellowed: "Turn on your radio so that you can get messages!"

9  
Which inspires me to bellow to an awful lot of people right now -. tune in on this program so you can hear ~~Hugh James.~~ an important message. And s-l-u-Monday.