

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY

The Navy Department today gave us one of the most dramatic of war bulletins. It told of recent losses at sea that we have had; three destroyers. You don't expect to find anything to raise your spirits in a list of warships that we've lost, but there is something special about today's Navy bulletin.

One of the destroyers was sent to the bottom of the North Atlantic- the old four stacker Borie, an ancient craft of first World war vintage, the same type that figured in the fifty destroyer trade with Great Britain. The Borie met her end after sinking two U-boats, and she literally killed herself in the act of destroying an enemy.

The old-timer, with her obsolete four stacks, was out alone. The weather was wild, a howling north Atlantic storm, and the aged craft was plowing her way through lashing seas- when she ran smack into a wolf pack of Nazi submarines.

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The Borie went after one and hurled a salvo of depth charges. Result? "Scratch one ^{U-}~~big~~-boat-- searching for more," flashed the Borie to her squadron.

Searching for more?. Yes, and finding more-- another submarine, a big one, a giant of the undersea. This one fought it out on the stormy sea, and there was a wild melee of shooting and ramming. There were crashing impacts of ramming, and the large U-boat was blasted and shattered, and blew up.

But the Borie herself was almost as badly off. Her old plates couldn't take the shock. "Some twenty years of hard service and the jarring effect of her ramming the big U-boat," says today's Navy bulletin, "were too much for the Borie. The attack "the communique goes on, "left many gaping holes in her hull below the water line."

Yet the Borie fought on-- fought for her life now. Her crew tried to keep their broken craft afloat in a storm that would have caused what the Navy bulletin calls- "concern to the most modern, water-fight ship, let alone an over-age destroyer with her hull bashed in." The Borie was rejoined by the ships of her squadron, but still it was no go.

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The command rang out-- "abandon ship," and crew members were taken off.-- Still the Borie did not sink, though she was ^{by then} just a water--logged hulk.

The veteran four-stacker had to be sent to the bottom by American air bombs, explosives launched by planes of the Borie's own flotilla.

The other two destroyers reported today as lost met their end in the Southwestern Pacific-- in the Naval and air fighting that is going on out there. The destroyer Henley was sunk by a torpedo, ^{two of her crew missing} The destroyer Chevalier was severely damaged by enemy attack and had a collision with another American destroyer. Later on she broke in two and sank.

These two South Sea Pacific losses occurred in October and have been kept secret for military reasons until now.

Now here's the bright part of the story. Today a spokesman of the Navy, in reporting the loss of the Henley and the Chevalier, stated: "All United States naval vessels sunk in the South and Southwest Pacific have now been announced." ^{And that includes the battle now going on - because it says "all".}

4-GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY

The good news in that is illuminated by a comparison with the claims the Japs have been making concerning the clash by sea and by air that has been going on for days. Tokyo has been making the usual braggart ^{boasts} ~~boasts~~ about stupendous Allied losses. The latest from the Jap capital lays it on thick, announcing that four Allied battleships had been sunk, two aircraft carriers and four cruisers. Another Jap radio blast gives a figure of eleven cruisers and six destroyers. And now we have the official statement at Washington, listing two destroyers sunk in October as the total of American ships lost.

Bitter fighting is going on out there, with all three elements participating-- sea, air and land.

The Japs are making desperate attempts to hold that island ^{of} Bougainville, where the marines are smashing at them with everything the marines have got, and they've got plenty,

^{both in} ~~from the~~ fighting equipment ^{and} ~~to the~~ fighting heart. The

reinforcements the enemy succeeded in landing on Bougainville as we heard last night, ~~and~~ have taken up battle positions along the Laruma river, although the word "river" overstates ^{it somewhat,} ~~the case.~~

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The Laruma is hardly more than a creek five miles long, which flows to the ocean from the foothills of a tall peak-- Mount Bagana, sixty-five hundred feet high. Along the line of the ^{at} stream the Japs have dug in, and at last reports the marines were assailing them with medium tanks and bombing planes, in a bitter battle, _{re}miniscent of Guadalcanal. In fact, a dispatch from Allied headquarters in the South Pacific tell^s_A us that the Japs apparently intend to stage an all-out battle for Bougainville, and the island may become a second Guadalcanal.

~~Note for Mr. Thomas:~~

~~This is intended to be followed by the guest~~

~~speaking~~

MARINES FOLLOW SOUTH PACIFIC

The news about the Marines fighting on Bougainville ^{in the Solomons,} ~~island~~
with their usual leatherneck courage and grit, is all the
more appropriate tonight --- because this is the Marine Corps'
birthday. Just a hundred and sixty-eight years ago, the
American soldiers of the sea began their existence --- founded
in Philadelphia. The leathernecks are having a birthday
celebration, and the big party is in Philadelphia. ~~That's~~
Where I am tonight, helping ^{them} ~~to~~ celebrate.

~~I have with me in the states~~ ^{Beside me at the moment are} two marine corps heroes --
veterans of Guadal Canal. ^{One is} ~~One is~~ First Lieutenant Evard
Snell, who enjoyed a singular honor at Guadal Canal. It was
his own American flag which was the first to be hoisted over
Henderson Field-- the first American flag to be flown in the
Solomons. Lieutenant Snell has just had an interesting
experience. One of the featured events at this Philadelphia
Marine Corps birthday celebration is the world premier of the
Twentieth Century Fox feature-- "Guadalcanal Diary". ~~we've~~

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~~seen a preview, and I want to ask Lieutenant Snell one thing:~~

"How did you feel, Lieutenant Snell, ^{at the Premiere tonight} when on the screen flashed the flag raising scene, ^{and} ~~and~~ one of the marines in Guadalcanal Diary said, "here's Lieutenant Snell's flag".

LIEUTENANT

"I almost jumped out of my seat. You see, I was shipped back to the States because of malaria, and in the meantime the blazing experiences at Guadalcanal had faded somewhat from memory. But there it was all over again.

L.T.:

25 yrs ✓

² ~~Out~~ second veteran of the fighting in the Solomons is Brigadier General Clifton Bledsoe ^{Cates} ~~Gates~~. He was a colonel on Guadalcanal, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{he's} ~~the general is~~ a marine of the old school, as is illustrated by a story they tell about him. One night, while the fighting was going on, a runner came puffing and panting into headquarters with dispatches. He was saying what he had to say, and rather loudly, when the sergeant of the guard told him to take it easy-- the general was sleeping. Whereupon the dispatch runner, one of those tough marine corps privates, said right out that,

3-Marines

in his opinion, the general could go on sleeping, because Generals didn't know what was happening any way. Whereupon a voice came out of the darkness saying, "You tell 'em buddy", the private nearly fainted because it was the voice of General ^{Cates} ~~Sates~~. Is that a true story General?

General: Well Mr. Thomas, it might be. A lot of stories go circulating among the marines, and they are not always filled with reverence and respect. In fact, the Marine Corps from the beginning has been a rough and ready outfit with a minimum of frills and a maximum of that fighting discipline.

L.T.: I believe that the first marines were recruited in a tavern here in Philadelphia.

GENERAL:

Yes and that was eight months before the Declaration of Independence. Marines were recruited with a promise of six dollars a month, a liberal daily ration of rum, and plenty of action.

L.T.:

The kind of action that is shown in the picture "Guadalcanal Diary".

LIEUTENANT SNELL:

Except that the equipment in those days wasn't so elaborate. The first marines went into action with a musket, a cutlas and a blanket.

L.T.:

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Well, we'll all have to see that modern mechanized equipment rolling ashore in "Guadalcanal Diary" to appreciate how far the leathernecks have traveled since the days of the musket, the cutlas and the blanket.

RUSSIA

The latest from Moscow tells us that the Red Army forces, driving west on a wide front from Kiev, have captured more than sixty towns, and have smashed their way to within twelve miles of an important railroad junction. Railroads are the key strategy of the Soviet offensive, with plans focusing on cutting the last North and South railroad line that the Germans have east of the frontier of Rumania. ~~The Russians are aiming at~~
~~Vinnitsa and important crossroads of steel rails.~~

In the Crimea, the Germans are fighting fiercely to defend the peninsula--- with the Soviets pouring reinforcements across to Kerch and battling against a stubborn enemy in the Isthmus of Perekop, the gateway of the Crimea.

~~(Note: Kill any or all of the Ickes story. It is not important. Also the second front bit about General Devers is not of much consequence.)~~

LEND LEASE

9

Tonight we have an explanation concerning Soviet Russia and Lend Lease. The elucidation given by War Production Chief Donald Nelson, who warns us against some possible misinterpretation that we might make in making deductions ~~for~~ *from* ~~the~~ *the* a statement issued by Soviet Premier Stalin. In this declaration Stalin stated the Soviet attitude as follows: "Soviet Russia would pay its obligations to the United States in full," said Stalin, "and not by token payments"

It had been thought perhaps that this promise to pay applied to Lend Lease. But that notion is only a misunderstanding, says War Production Chief Donald Nelson. Stalin's promise of repayment, he tells us does not apply to Lend Lease-- but only to such goods as the Soviets receive from the United States after the war.

The whole Lend Lease is to get a going-over when tomorrow President Roosevelt will present to Congress a statement and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill will give the British facts about Lend Lease and its reverse-- things that we get from our Allies in return.

ITALY

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In Italy, papers taken from German prisoners reveal that Hitler's high command has ordered that the Nazi winter line across the peninsula must be held at all costs, for eight weeks at least. Eight weeks would last into the middle of winter.

This documentary angle ties in with the news at the fighting front, which tells of desperate Nazi counter-attacks. The Germans have charged forward with nine separate counter-drives in the past twenty-four hours--striking with tanks wherever the mountainous country would permit. The heaviest blows were struck in the sector of Venafro, where the Americans are threatening to outflank the Nazi mountain positions near the coast.

~~What happened to the~~ ^{all} nine counter-attacks? ~~All~~ were beaten back. Fifth Army artillery played a star part--artillery in the mud. It's still raining in southern Italy, the guns were up to their hubs in mud, and each recoil hurled sheets of ooze on the gunners. Sometimes the Germans came so

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close that the gunners raked them with open sights. In not one case did a counter-attack reach the Fifth Army forward positions. They gained not a foot of ground that the Allies had previously won, and when each assault was repelled, Allied infantry charged forward and rounded up prisoners.


On the Adriatic side, General Montgomery's Eighth Army has seized new heights along the Sangro river, driving a salient into the enemy ~~winter line~~. The word "winter" is acquiring more meaning, over there as white patches are beginning to appear high on the Apenines-- the winter snows ~~are gathering~~ ⁱⁿ on the ~~top~~ mountains.

BOMBING IN ITALY

The news about the air war in Italy is ^{a sort of} ~~in a way~~

a repetition of ~~things~~ of last night. Then we heard how flying fortresses had knocked out the big ball bearing plant of the Fiat Company at Turin. In today's news the target was a factory at Villa Perosa, another great industrial center for the manufacture of ball bearings. In fact, after yesterday's raid against the Fiat plant, the Villa Perosa works were the only remaining Italian source of the small spheres that are so important to the machinery of war.

All of which reflects back to the great Schweinfurt raid, when American bombers based on Britain smashed and shattered Germany's number one ball bearing factory. In other words hitting at one of the most vital elements of the modern mechanism of battle.



2-Bombing in Italy

In addition -- we are told how flying fortresses hurled
tons of bombs on the ^{great} Ansaldo plant ^{at} in Genoa, the largest steel
works in Italy.

ITALIAN COMMISSION

A commission has been appointed to carry out the terms of the armistice with Italy. This was announced in Washington today, along with the information that Major General Kenyon A. Joyce of the United States Army has been appointed as acting deputy president of what is called-- "The Italian Control Commission". Also an advisory council for Italy has been formed-- under the provisions of the Moscow conference. The purpose of these bodies is to carry out the terms of the armistice for the Badoglio government and to align Italian economy and manpower in support of the war against the Nazis.

HULL

Secretary Hull came back today, returning from his twenty-
six thousand mile trip to Moscow. ^{The white-haired Tennessean} He received a hero's ovation
at the national Capitol, ^{7k} was greeted personally at the airport
by President Roosevelt and a host of other dignitaries--
the president taking the ^{of State} secretary straight to the White House.

He brings back a personal message from Premier Stalin
to President Roosevelt, and gives us a warm account of the
state of feeling at the Moscow conference. "On our mission
abroad," says Cordell Hull, "we received every courtesy,
every hospitability and every consideration. For two weeks,"
he goes on, "the conference in Moscow worked together as a
single unit in an atmosphere of understanding and trust, of
friendliness and cooperation." ~~But that's something!~~

~~And s-l-u-t-m~~
And now a little teamwork.
It's your turn, George.

MARINES

The news about the Marines fighting on Bougainville Island with their usual Leatherneck courage and grit, is all the more appropriate tonight --- because this is the Marine Corps' birthday. Just a hundred and sixty-eight years ago, the American soldiers of the sea began their existence -- founded in Philadelphia. The Leathernecks are having a birthday celebration, and the big party is in Philadelphia. Where I am tonight, helping them celebrate.

Beside me at the moment are two Marine Corps heroes -- veterans of Guadalcanal. One is First Lieutenant Evard Snell, who enjoyed a singular honor at Guadalcanal. It was his own American flag which was the first to be hoisted over Henderson Field - the first American flag to be flown in the Solomons. Lieutenant Snell has just had an interesting experience. One of the featured events at this Philadelphia Marine Corps birthday celebration is the world premier of the Twentieth Century Fox feature -- Guadalcanal Diary.

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