

L.I. - Guadalcanal. Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1942.

President Roosevelt this afternoon was queried about the crisis of battle in the Solomon Islands. The President maintained military secrecy. He gave no definite reply. He said that a battle was raging, and the outcome was not yet clear.

This was, in effect, what Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox had stated earlier in the day. ^{When he} ~~He~~ said:

"It's a darn tough stiff fight. It is still ~~going~~ going on. Our men are putting up a splendid game fight. The issue is joined, but the outcome is not yet clear.

The Japanese," he added significantly, "have a lot of strength." And then he summarized by saying: "I am not foreshadowing results, and certainly I am not foreshadowing defeat."

The Secretary was asked about the grandiose Japanese claims, a statement issued by Tokyo today. The Japs brag they sank four of our aircraft carriers, one battleship

and a lot of other vessels - not including the ones they say they damaged. And they announce that they shot down a huge lot of our planes. Secretary Knox characterized all that big talk in the following words:

"That's another one of their fishing expeditions."

Secretary meant that they
They ~~X~~ make fantastic claims in the hope of getting a reply that will provide them with some useful information.

Our losses as given out in Washington, consist of a destroyer sunk and an aircraft carrier severely damaged. ~~As~~ ^H As for the damage the enemy suffered, Tokyo is not so far away from our own United States Navy bulletin. The Navy announces that two enemy carriers were hit and damaged, also two heavy cruisers and a light cruiser. The Japs admit damage to two carriers and also a cruiser damaged. But they say the ships were not badly injured, while our reports indicate that they were hit hard, smashed heavily.

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Today at Cleveland, Vice-Admiral Richard S. Edwards, second in command of the American fleet, stated that the Japs have a preponderance of naval forces in the South Pacific. Our Navy, in his words, "is now strongly outnumbered." And he added, "People must realize that the Japanese fleet is now the second largest in the world because of Britain's heavy losses." ^{To which} ~~It is to~~ ^{one may} ~~be~~ pointed out that the Jap naval position is such that the enemy can shift forces along short interior lines while our own must go the long way around. That gives them an advantage in massing superior forces quickly at any one point.

As for the land fighting on Guadalcanal, we hear little about it. It is merely indicated that the Japs are attacking the positions of our marines and regular army troops. The battle is raging on land, sea and air, and we can't do better than describe it

by echoing Secretary Knox in what he said today - Navy Day. "In some respects," said he, "it is the most notable Navy Day, because the Navy in all its history never put up a gamer fight than it is putting up right now."

WASP

Today some tensely dramatic things were told by men of the WASP, sailors who were aboard when the aircraft carrier was torpedoed. One enlisted man told how American destroyers dropped depth charges against the Jap submarines. Survivors were swimming in the water at the time and they were menaced by sharks. So what did they ^{lads} do aboard the depth bomber ^{ing} destroyers? Sailors on deck shot at the sharks with rifles, driving them away from the swimming survivors.

Another man told how one sailor who was on deck at the time of the torpedoing had a bundle of money in a locker down below - thirteen hundred dollars, which is plenty of money for a sailor. "When the order came to abandon ship," says the survivor telling the story, "this fellow offered anyone the key to his locker, if they wanted to go for the money." ^{the story concludes with these words,} "Nobody wanted it," the story concludes.

ALEUTIANS

Army bombers are still smashing at the Japs in the Aleutians, and today's report of this reveals that the enemy has established a submarine base at Kiska. ^{A Navy} ~~This is revealed by the Navy -- in a~~ ^{today} ~~bulletin that~~ reads as follows:- "On October Third Army Liberators bombers dropped eighteen tons on the camp area and submarine base at Kiska." And the next day Army Flying Fortresses did the same thing. ^{IP} Kiska is the only island that the Japs hold in the Aleutians, they having abandoned the other two that they seized. And they are basing submarines at Kiska -- as our air forces keep hammering them.

EGYPT

From British headquarters at Cairo we hear that the Battle of the Desert continued today -- with the British Eighth Army smashing more deeply into the Nazi defense position. On previous days Imperial troops drove wedges into the enemy fortifications. And today they enlarged those wedges -- forging forward slowly and surely.

And Cairo gives us a description of the kind of battle that is raging -- rather a contrast to the previous style of war in the desert. In earlier encounters it was a war of movement, with speedy tank units circling widely. Those were the favorite tactics of Nazi Field Marshal Rommel -- bold manoeuvre and flanking thrusts.

Now, however, it is different. With the short battle front, about forty miles of it, from the Mediterranean Sea to the impassible^{able} Quartara Depression -- there is no wide space ~~xx~~ of desert-battle-field ^{for} ~~of~~ sweeping tank ~~xxx~~ evolutions in a war of movement. It is a battle of position --

rather reminiscent of the style of trench warfare of the previous world conflict or of the stalemate at Stalingrad right now. ^{TP} Rommel has set up deep and powerful fortifications, and these the British must crack by direct assault -- push ~~into them~~ and drive wedges, as they have been doing. ^{TP} With the strategy altered, ~~so~~ the tactics ^{too} ~~far~~ have changed. Instead of the tanks rushing ahead, the infantry following -- the first attacks are now being made by infantry. They fight their way into the Nazi positions and the tanks follow. As a result, Cairo tells us that the main armored forces of the two contending sides have not yet met. The large masses of British and German tanks have not yet clashed -- as the British infantry ^{men} ~~forces~~ gouge their way into Rommel's fortified battle front.

CONVOY

Here is one to add to all the classic stories about strange encounters - people meeting at singular and dramatic places. Captain John Henry Reardon Smith is a veteran English sea captain. He was in command of a British merchant vessel in a convoy bound for Soviet Russia. His ship was sunk, and the skipper with others of his crew, got away in a lifeboat. ^{TP} A British destroyer came along to pick them up. As the warship and lifeboat came near to each other, the young captain of the destroyer sang out in a voice ~~mighty~~ familiar to the skipper. "Hello father, glad to see you," ~~called the destroyer captain.~~ He was the skipper's own son, Lieutenant Reginald Smith. And presently they were asking each other - "How are things at home? Is mother all right?"

An odd and fortunate father-and-son ^{sea} reunion.

WILLKIE

Today President Roosevelt made the following statement - "The Atlantic Charter applies to all humanity."

At the White House news conference, the President was asked about Wendell Willkie's radio report ^{to the nation} ~~given~~ last night. He was reminded that Willkie intimated that in some countries the Atlantic Charter is considered as having only a local and limited significance. Some people ^{out} ~~in the~~ East believe that its promises of freedom apply only to the nations of Europe and not those of Asia. ^R Some take the very name to suggest that! - "Atlantic", not "Pacific!" But that's a wrong interpretation - the President pointed out today. "Atlantic" simply signifies the place where the Charter was signed at that memorable Roosevelt-Churchill meeting on the American side of the ocean. ^R As for the significance of the ~~document~~ document - it is worldwide. ^R The President permitted himself to be

quoted directly on that point, reminding the newsmen that he was not stating anything new but was repeating previous declarations. Here is the direct quotation:

"The Atlantic Charter," said the President, "applies to all humanity - as the Secretary of State and I have said several times before."

He was asked - "What about Willkie's sharp criticism of the conduct of the war, our alleged failure to deliver sufficient war supplies to our Allies? The President said he would answer by paraphrasing an old cigarette advertisement: "There isn't a controversy in a carload of speeches."

"You feel then," he was asked, "that Willkie supported your policies?" The President repeated that there wasn't a controversy in a carload of speeches.

"Then you are in agreement with what Mr. Willkie

said," "a newsman insisted. And once again came the reply about controversy, carload and speeches."

Another statesman who was queried about the Willkie speech was Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

One striking point of Willkie criticism concerned India, the clash between the British and the Indian Nationalists. Willkie described the official American attitude on the India question as -- wishy-washy.

Secretary Hull stated today that the United States Government is observing developments in India closely, and is watching for an opportunity to do something when the right time comes.

In Congress, there was both approval and criticism of the Willkie address, with several Democratic lawmakers voicing disapprobation of the Republican standard bearer of Nineteen Forty. Congressman Rankin of Mississippi stated that Willkie, in the Congressman's words -- "gave encouragement to the revolting elements in India."

Congressman Patman of Texas said that much of Willkie's report was -- "instructive", other parts -- "hurtful."

MANPOWER

I have just been handed a bulletin saying that all "necessary" workers on the nation's livestock, poultry, and dairy farms will be frozen in their present occupations, War Manpower Chief Paul V. McNutt announced tonight.

TRIALS

Prosecutions for treason were under way today at Chicago and New York.

To Chicago a prisoner was brought, heavily manacled and guarded closely. He was Ernest Peter Burger, one of the eight Nazi saboteurs who landed in the United States from a German submarine - one of the two who saved their lives in the prosecution of the other six, the six who were electrocuted in Washington. Burger was brought to Chicago today to testify as a witness in the prosecution of six persons for treason - six German-born American citizens. They are charged with aiding and abetting Herbert Hans Haupt, one of the saboteurs who were executed. ~~Officials of the Department of Justice say that Burger will be the first witness in the trial. And it is believed that the evidence he gives will include part of his testimony before the military court that convicted the saboteurs in~~ Washington.

~~It has been announced that the proceedings of that trial will be kept a secret until after the war, but the present treason prosecution in Chicago may divulge some of it - some of the evidence that Saboteur Burger gave.~~

In New York, ^{an}~~the~~ indictment connected with the sabotage affair was handed down today against Hedwig Ingemann. She is charged with what is called "misprision^z of treason." In less legal language, Hedwig Ingemann is accused of having had knowledge of the treasonable activities of Edward John Kerling. He was one of the six saboteurs who were executed in Washington.

The case of the prosecution, as made public today, discloses a dramatic story. Hedwig Ingemann, American born of German parents, worked in a grocery store in the Yorkville section of New York. She is described as having been a girl friend of Kerling - and when he, with other saboteurs, were landed by U-boat,

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she met him. He told her of his sabotage plans, and she was given the task of changing fifty dollar bills for money of smaller denomination. The fifty dollar bills were part of the sabotage funds brought along by the Nazi agents.

The story continues that Hedwig Ingemann, the girl friend, went again to meet Kerling. This time she was accompanied by Kerling's wife, and by a man in contact with the saboteurs. The meeting place was the corner of Lexington Avenue and Forty-Eighth Street. But instead of the Nazi agent, they found the F.B.I. Kerling had already been arrested and F.B.I. agents were waiting for anyone coming to meet him. ^{JK} Kerling's

~~wife, a German citizen, is being held at Ellis Island. No charge has been lodged against her for aiding her husband. The man who was with the two women on the trip to meet Kerling is to be tried for treason. And today~~

DILLING

There was an exchange of vigorous vocabulary today, when Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling of Chicago faced a federal court, ^{in Washington,} She is the author of "The Red Network", and is accused of having conspired to undermine the morale of the armed forces.

The prosecutor, William Power Maloney, delivered a fiery denunciation of Mrs. Dilling in which he called her - "an ink spot on the apron of American womanhood." Which is quite a metaphor, similie, hyperbole, and figure of speech.

An answer to that was made by Mrs. Dilling's husband, who is also her attorney. He responded with an equally imposing metaphor, similie, hyperbole, and figure of speech. He called Prosecutor Maloney, "a vicious, malicious and vituperative big bad wolf."

I think that exchange of compliments deserves a place in the history of wars of words.

MEXICAN BOMB

Mexico reports a deep and devious plot, with agents of the Nazi gestapo scheming to kill a Mexican anti-espionage agent. His name is Teodoro Gonzalez Miranda, and he is said to have brought about the arrest of the Number One director of Nazi espionage in Mexico. So the German gestapo, operating south of the Rio Grande, set out to get him.

They tried to kill him with a poison gas bomb, says the Mexican reporter. And in the picture appears - "a mysterious foreign woman." You can't seem to keep the ladies out of these bits of espionage melodrama. The story relates that this mysterious foreign woman went to the office of Senor ^{Teodoro} Gonzalez Miranda, the ^{anti}-espionage agent. And she placed a bomb of poison gas in a drawer of ^{his} ~~the~~ desk. She fixed it so that when he'd turn the key of the drawer, the gas bomb would explode. It was charged with what is called - pirita gas.

And that is said to be deadly stuff - one whiff of it
is fatal.

And so it came to pass that when Senor
Gonzalez Miranda went to his desk, and turned the key to
open the fatal drawer - the bomb exploded, and out shot
a cloud of the deadily pirita. However, when the explosion
sounded with a bang, Senor Gonzalez Miranda got out of
there so fast and ran with such speed that he failed to
get a whiff of the lethal vapor. So the net result of it
all is that the Mexican police are ^{now} looking for the
gestapo agents, including the mysterious foreign woman. —

blonde, with green eyes, I'll bet,
while I'm looking for Hugh.
Oh, here he is.