

SOLOMONS

C.I. - Sunoco. Wednesday, August 12, 1942.

When the Pacific War Council met at Washington today, the chief topic of conversation naturally was the American attack on the Solomon Islands. The Council sat with President Roosevelt for more than an hour.

When it was over they ~~naturally were unable to give out~~ ^{no details were given} ~~out.~~

~~any details about the discussion.~~ Chinese Foreign

Minister Soong said it was most interesting, but, he added, "what we know is what the newspapers say,

nothing much beyond that." He described the attack

with the words "a good enough token." Dr. Loudon, the

Dutch Ambassador, described it as very encouraging.

The Japanese continue to claim that ^{they} ~~victory~~ ^{have been victorious in the Solomons,} ~~was theirs in these islands.~~ However, that boast does

not come from the Imperial Japanese command. It was

announced that the speaker of the lower House ^{of the} ~~had~~

^{Japanese Diet had} cabled his congratulations to Admiral Yamamoto, the

Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese fleet. However,

You may recall that Yamamoto was also congratulated over the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway Island, where the United Nations knocked the Yamamoto's forces galley West.

From the ~~actual scene of that~~ in the Solomons ~~the~~ there is no official news. But unofficial reports from Australia bring advices that Uncle Sam's Leathernecks are fighting their way into the wooded interiors of the three most important of those islands. Our marines for months have been intensively trained to new twists and tricks in the business of killing Japs. They have been advancing against the most desperate kind of defense and under constant and furious attacks from enemy dive bombers and fighter planes. It is believed that we took a leaf out of the enemy's book by using parachutists, but that is not official or certain.

The three islands on which the marines are reported to have effected beachheads are Tulagi,

Florida and Guadalcanal. A London newspaper has reports that our forces have been strengthened and are making progress. The same London correspondent is informed that the marines have tanks, landing barges and special types of artillery. And -- we do know that Allied planes are cooperating with Vice-Admiral Ghormley's landing force.

Every story that comes from there emphasizes the warning that we must expect to hear of severe losses. Australian and American planes are also striking at the Japs in New Guinea. There was a night attack at the airdrome at Rabaul in the Bismarck Islands northeast of the Solomons. Three waves of Lockheed Hudson bombers, manned by Australian crews, raided the Jap installations on the Dutch-Timor Portuguese island of Timor.

INDIA

The news from India today is not as disturbing as it was Monday. Fresh rioting broke out at the town of Wardha, also in the cities of Lucknow, Delhi and Poona; and at Nasik, Cawnpore, of mutiny fame, and at Madras, metropolis of the South. At Wardha, a smaller town, the police had to fire four rounds before the crowd would ~~id~~ disperse.

At Bombay, the morning was comparatively calm, but trouble broke out again this afternoon. Nevertheless, correspondents report that the situation seems to be slightly improved, with emphasis on the word "seems."

From New Delhi, official city of the Viceroy, the news is not so encouraging. The rioting coming closer and closer to the residential section occupied by British -- and a few Americans -- have homes there. The police there were backed by troops with machine guns. The disorders had begun in Old Delhi, several miles away, and then the new capital -- built recently. However, the authorities seem to have things

under control and it is officially announced that there has been virtually no interference with the war effort. So far in India there is no indication of any widespread mass movement. So says the British Raj. That the countryside is unaffected, and most of the people of India are villagers.

Factories that were closed at first in Calcutta, have been reopened.

The cities where the rioting has been bad are centers of the All-India Congress movement containing hooligan elements as well as hot head students. That's the official statement.

Later came word from Calcutta that six thousand more workers had struck in a jute mill. But on top of that, the India office in London announced that the disorder in the sub-continent was completely in hand. The India office added that there is no trouble on a large scale in the Punjab, in ~~the~~ vast Bengal, or in Bihar, or in the Central Provinces.

So, the British may have been ready for this. And India may be held in line.

RUSSIA

On the Russian front, the Nazi spearheads are driving on into the Caucasus. While one panzer column is rolling into the mountains, another is driving towards the Black Sea, aiming at the naval bases of the Soviet Black Sea fleet and the rich oil fields of Grozny.

Dispatches to Moscow from the front admit that the Red Army has been forced back at Mikoyan Shakhar, near the provincial boundary of Georgia, the home of Premier Stalin. And not far from the Turkish border.

The Berlin Radio broadcast a rumor that the governments of the United States and Great Britain were urging the Turks to permit the Russian Black Sea fleet to escape into the Mediterranean through the Bosphorous Straits. The implication of that was a warning to the Turks to maintain their neutrality.

There is every indication that the Turks will remain neutral and will permit no passage through

the Bosphorous. A dispatch from Ankara last week reported that if the Nazis take the Black Sea bases, the Red warships will either have to be scuttled or interned by the Turks.

In spite of this grim news, a British military commentator in London says that the Russian situation generally appears more cheerful than a week ago.

The Red armies are holding firmly opposite Stalingrad and the Germans have not made any positive impression during the last day or two. They are still spreading out in the Caucasus, but, the advance appears to be slowing down. That may be due either to stronger resistance from the Russians or difficult terrain. It is agreed that the Russian resistance is getting stiffer.

EAGLE

That

The British Navy has lost another aircraft carrier,
The Admiralty ⁱⁿ at London admitted ~~as much~~ today. It
~~reported that~~ H.M.S. EAGLE, the twenty-two thousand,
six hundred ton man-o-war, ~~had been~~ sunk in what the
Admiralty calls an engagement in the Mediterranean.

The Berlin Radio claims that a running fight is going
on between Axis war vessels and a heavy British convoy.

^{London}
~~The Admiralty~~ announced that at least one Nazi U-boat
had been sunk at the same time as the EAGLE.

The Rom^e Radio claims that much damage has been
done by Nazi and Italian air squadrons, presumably
torpedo planes. Berlin declares that the bulk of the
British Mediterranean fleet is under attack, and that
~~the~~ Axis warships have sunk eight British men-o-war,
including the EAGLE. ^{TP} This is the fifth British
aircraft carrier ^{to go down} ~~that has been sunk~~ since the war began.

She was not a new ship and her capacity was only

twenty-one planes. The EAGLE was originally built for the Chilean Government, but, in Nineteen Eighteen, when the last World War still was at its height, the British Government seized her and converted her from a battleship into a carrier. The Admiralty announces that a large number of the ship's company have been rescued.

EGYPT

Our own fighters are now taking an increasing part in the desert fighting in Egypt. A report from the Alamein front brings word that both Army fighter pilots and tank crews from America are now in the front line

^{of} that battlefront. Some of them have been under heavy bombardment from enemy artillery and airplanes. An American correspondent reports that they are waiting impatiently for "a whack at the jerries", American style!

The advance units of fighter pilots and Curtiss—
^{Kitty} Wright Hawks are at desert stations commanded by a colonel from Alabama. They are ^{in the} ~~on that~~ desert, side by side with the R.A.F. and ^{with} squadrons of the South African Air Force ^{& the Free French.} As for the tanks, both General Grants and General Lees, manned by sun-bronzed crews, are so far out in front, that the reporter found it almost impossible to reach them in a truck. It takes a tank or a jeep to cope with that shifting sand.

One American officer reports that the men under his command has ^{ve} been subjected to the stiffest kind of training behind the lines. They are now in what he calls "razor blade form, only hoping jerry will stick his neck out so they can get at him."

Another part of the news is that our men have now become so inured to the drinking of tea, that they drink more of it than the British.

RAID

The latest Royal Air Force raid was on Mainz, one of the oldest military centers in Germany. It also used to be one of the most historic and interesting towns. The history of Mainz begins nineteen hundred and fifty-five years ago, when the Roman General Drusus built a fort there to control the Marches on the Rhine. In the Middle Ages, it was the seat of a great diocese of the Church of Rome, also the birthplace of Gutenberg, the man who invented moveable type for printing.

The Air Ministry tells us that the raid on Mainz was particularly successful. The report does not say how many bombers took part, but they must have been many because the British admit losing sixteen of them. They dropped hundreds of tons of explosive bombs on Mainz, and sixty thousand incendiaries. The raid lasted forty-six minutes.

In the same breath, the Air Ministry reports that in June and July the Royal Air Force dropped

altogether no fewer than thirteen thousand tons of
bombs on Western Europe.

FRANCE

~~There was~~ ^a another anti-Nazi demonstration in France. Sixty German war pilots were training, trotting around ~~the~~ ^a ~~brick~~ cinder track at a stadium on the outskirts of Paris. A group of French patriots were hiding behind a hedge and tossed a couple of hand grenades among them. One Nazi was killed immediately, another died on the way to the hospital, eight were severely wounded, and ten others injured. The men who threw the grenades escaped without leaving a trace. ~~It was~~ ^T the most daring demonstration that has yet been made by the French underground movement. However, the grim side of it is that it ^{probably will} ~~will undoubtedly~~ provoke a new outburst of German reprisals.

Another thing worrying the Nazis is an epidemic of farm fires. Underground agents are burning the crops in ~~the~~ fields, barns and granaries.

PELLEY

Fifteen years in prison for William Dudley Pelley, mystic and anti-Semite. That was the sentence pronounced in court today after Pelley was convicted of sedition and conspiracy. His lawyers asked the judge for a retrial but that motion was promptly denied. They say they are going to appeal to the Circuit Court at Chicago.

Marian Agnes Henderson, secretary to Pelley, was also convicted, and the judge gave her two years. However, the court suspended that sentence.

The judge remarked that this had been the hardest case he had ever had to decide. It is hard to draw the line between sedition and criticism, said the court, but he* added: "These are perilous times and this case involved a man who has attempted to destroy the morale of our country. That is the serious thing." And he concluded:- "I intend to impose a sentence which will insure us that you --Pelley -- will cause no further harm."

TAXES

President Roosevelt's proposal that nobody should have more than twenty-five thousand dollars a year is opposed by the American Federation of Labor.

An economist employed by the Federation testified against it before the Finance Committee today. He told the Senators that such an arbitrary and inflexible rule would be certain to limit the activity of businessmen and would be a short-sighted step.

~~The American Federation of Labor~~ objects to a flat ceiling for workers' wages, ~~he declared~~. Ergo the same principle should be applied to industrialists.

PETRILLO

The Musicians Union has fined one of its members for singing the National Anthem! That ^S ~~you may remember,~~ ~~is~~ the union run ~~so autocratically~~ by one James Petrillo. Don Mario, a band leader, was present as a spectator at a Fourth of July concert in Roger Williams Park, Providence, Rhode Island. There were some twenty thousand people there. In due course, the National Anthem was played and sung by the crowd. Band Leader Mario stood with the others and joined in the singing. He ^{was} ~~attended~~ not as a ^{musician} ~~union member~~ but as a ^{citizen, a} member of the Sunday Recreation Committee ~~of the Citizens~~ of Providence, which had arranged the concert. For that, he pays the union a fine of five hundred dollars!

Sounds weird and cockeyed.

GOVERNORS

Six New England Governors met at Augusta, Maine today to talk about oil. They are trying to make plans to make sure that the people of New England have enough fuel oil to keep warm this coming winter. The Chairman of the Fuel Oil Committee of the New England Council told the Governors that there are now sixty-two thousand tank cars employed exclusively in bringing oil to the east coast, sixty-two thousand out of a total of a hundred and ten thousand in the whole country. More than five thousand more will be released from other parts of the United States to carry petroleum to the east.

However, the fuel situation remains critical. All responsible officials are deeply concerned about it.

