

SOLOMONS

L.J. - Sunoco. Monday, Oct. 12, 1942.

Tonight we have for the first time fuller details of the Battle of the Solomons back in August. The details are grave. Uncle Sam's fleet lost three heavy cruisers. They were ~~the QUINCEY~~, the VINCENNES, ^{and the Quincy. And} ~~and~~ the ASTORIA, [^] That was the price we had to pay for that foothold the marines won on Guadalcanal. ^{VP} The Australians also lost a cruiser, H.M.S. Canberra. Most of the personnel of those four Allied cruisers were saved, says the Navy. However, there were still many casualties.

The battle began ^A at a quarter-to-two ~~in~~ the morning ^X August Ninth. Our cruisers and the Australian men-o-war were protecting the unloading of our transport concentration. The battle started quite suddenly. First enemy aircraft ~~xxxxxxxx~~ dropped flares over our transports and supply ships and the entire area for miles around ^{was} ~~were~~ lighted up. At the same moment a force of enemy cruisers and destroyers steamed at high speed towards our transports. The Jap fire control

immediately sighted our covering warships and opened fire. The Australian cruiser, ~~was~~ ^{the Canberra} quickly set on fire. She was abandoned and sank the following morning.

There was a short, sharp exchange of salvos between our men-o-war and the Japs. Then the Japanese changed their course and steamed through a passage northeast of Savo Island. There, they met another screen of United States cruisers and destroyers. ~~There~~ ^{then} followed a fierce battle at close range. The cruisers QUINCEY and VINCENNES were hit repeatedly and sank during the night. The ASTORIA was badly damaged. Throughout the dark hours she burned, and the following morning she sank.

The Navy explained that these details of the Battle of the Solomons were not announced previously for military reasons. The reason they can now be admitted is that the four cruisers that have been lost

have been offset by the construction of new ships.

The Navy also reveals that the invasion of the Solomons was ^{begun} ~~begin~~ and carried through just in the nick of time. Reconnaissance flights had brought intelligence to the high command that ~~the~~ Japs were building an airfield on Guadalcanal. They were also quickly expanding the facilities ~~of~~ other bases nearby.

TP This expansion in the Solomons, says the Navy, together with increased activity in New Guinea, clearly indicated that the enemy was trying to establish and maintain control of both air and sea in the Solomon Islands area. If they had got away with it, it would have put the Japs in position to hurl an attack by sea at Port Darwin in Australia, ^{and} ~~it~~ would seriously have ~~threatened~~ threatened our supply lines to Australia and New Zealand. It would also have cut our communications to our island bases in ^{the} New Hebrides, New Caledonia and the Fiji Islands.

In spite of those losses, the Battle of the Solomons remains an American and Australian victory so far. Although the Japs bagged those four heavy cruisers, this did not prevent the completion of our landing operations and the Jap fleet took to its heels. Including our three cruisers, the total losses of American ships in the Battle of the Solomons, both combat and non-combat vessels, is nine, and at least two others were damaged. But the Japanese lost at least thirty-eight, sunk, probably sunk, or damaged.

CHURCHILL

Prime Minister Winston Churchill was in high fettle today. He made a speech bubbling over with confidence and optimistic figures. This he did at Edinburgh, the one time capital of Mary Queen of Scots. The Edinburghers gave the Prime Minister the freedom of the city. In return he made a lot of pleasing statements.

"Solid and remarkable improvements in Allied power throughout August and September." "The Allies are now building merchant shipping quicker than the Axis can sink it," *said he. And,* "Allied air superiority is increasing." *said Churchill,* "In August and September, the R.A.F. and the Americans dropped the greatest tonnage of bombs on Germany."

TP The word "greatest" popped up freely in the Prime Minister's discourse. *For instance,* "The greatest number of troops of the United States arrived in Britain in August and September." "But, submarine warfare still is the

greatest problem of the Allies."

Churchill gave a cheer for the Red armies of Russia. He described them as unbeaten, unbroken - ~~no~~ countering-attacking while the Germans are whining under the increasing impact of British bombing.

"The United Nations," he said, "have reached a stern and sombre moment."

saw
~~professed to find~~ symptoms of fear in the recent speeches of Hitler and other Nazi leaders. ~~"It was~~

"~~F~~ear," he said, "of the growing strength of the Allies."

TP
and, he used these words:- "It is becoming pretty clear that the day is ~~coming~~ *at hand* when it will have to be settled. . . ."

"Hitler sees with amazement that our ~~and~~ defeats are but stepping stones to victory and that all his victories are stepping stones to ruin."

He paid his compliments to the Nazis for their

incredible ferocity. Their cruelty in the west, he declared, was nothing compared to what they have done in the east. "In eastern Europe," said Churchill, "Hitler has executed two hundred persons for every one executed in the west." ~~Then he said:~~ "During the first days when Hitler entered Kiev, he shot fifty thousand people." *So spoke the Prime Minister of Britain.*

RUSSIA

The Battle of Stalingrad is still raging.

As it progresses, that announcement of the Nazi high command becomes more and more weird. I mean the announcement that they were raising the siege of that city on the Volga. Instead of raising it, the Germans have been bringing up more reinforcements.

However, we learn today that Soviet Marshal Timoshenko's counter-offensive ~~was~~ roaring forward above Stalingrad. The Red army had a success in the eastern Caucasus also. There, Hitler had thrown large forces inⁱⁿ an effort to penetrate to the Caspian. Moscow reports that the Germans were thrown back in the Mozdok region.

Recently Life Magazine published an article, which, to some Londoners, appeared to criticize the British conduct of the war. For instance, it included a suggestion that they "cease fighting a war to hold the Empire." *Those were the words.*

Whereupon one newspaper of London roared back, saying that such extravagant comments do no good to the cause of the United Nations. And another called it insulting nonsense, and accused Life of appalling ignorance or willful misunderstanding of British policy.

Then what happened? Well, Life replied with peaceful words, denying the charge that it was trying to drive a wedge between Britain and America.

Part of the Life statement reads as follows:
"All we were really demanding in our open letter was that aims be stated and that these be United Nations ~~States~~ aims, not merely Empire aims."

EGYPT

Desert Fox is

It looks as though Rommel the ~~Nazi~~ was about to
get under way again
~~start some fresh action~~ in north Africa. The principal
sign pointing *in direction* that ~~way~~ is a renewal of heavy
bombardment of the island of Malta by German and
Italian planes. For a long while the Axis air forces
have done nothing but make reconnaissance flights over
Malta,
~~the island,~~ But yesterday they sent over two hundred
and fifty bombers in five repeated attacks. *In the* ~~Hitherto~~
past this has
~~they have~~ always done ~~this~~ to protect the shipment of
reinforcements ~~xxxxxx~~ and supplies, to ~~Marshal~~ Rommel.

DAVIS

American newspapermen today heard some criticism of themselves from Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information. He objected particularly to the over-emphasis that has been laid on minor victories of the Allies. You cannot cover the war, said Davis, as you would cover a fire on Main Street.

He was talking to the Advisory Council of the National Editorial Association at Chicago. He acknowledged that American newspaper^s~~men~~ as a whole have done a good job of covering the war, certainly more fully than ^{the} newspaper~~men~~ of any other nation.

But He pointed out the absurdity of one California paper which published a headline reading: "Hitler Crushed at Stalingrad." And, said Davis, "To play the news that way only encourages disappointment and disillusionment. Hitler may have been stopped at Stalingrad but he is a long way from being crushed."

A New York paper, he pointed out, ran a banner line reading:- "A.E.F. Invades Europe." The story underneath was about the participation of a few Americans in the raid on Dieppe.

Well, we all know that was overplayed that first day. But as soon as we got more news both Press and Radio gave just about all the credit to the Canadians who did most of the fighting at Dieppe.

ROOSEVELT

The speech that President Roosevelt will make tonight is expected to be one of ^{his} ~~the~~ most important, in ~~many~~ months. It will begin at ten P.M. Eastern War Time. ^H Apparently ^{the President} ~~he~~ has been busy rewriting ~~it~~ all day. His only conference was with Major General Hershey, Director of the Draft, and Paul V. McNutt, head of the Manpower Commission.

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^{Which} ~~That~~ leaves the ~~clear~~ inference that Mr. Roosevelt is going to talk about manpower, the farm labor shortage, military service for lads of eighteen and nineteen years, and the second front.

Some newspapers have published stories that tonight's fireside chat would deal principally with the manpower problem. But Presidential Secretary Steve Early said it would 'cover more than that, for example, Selective Service. Early also indicated that the President would talk about the second front.

SOUTH AMERICA

Columbius Day brings us disturbing news of Uncle Sam's relations with two South American republics. This morning we learned that President Rios of Chile informed our government ~~that~~ he would not ~~pay the~~ visit ~~to~~ Washington as he had intended. ~~And~~ he explained in these words:- "Official intimation, circulated in the United States about my country, has created an unpleasant atmosphere."

In retort to that, a spokesman for the State Department repeated the accusation made by Acting Secretary Sumner Welles ^{who} ~~who~~ charged that there was a spy ring in Chile and Argentina which was responsible for the sinking of ships ^{the waters of the} in western hemisphere. ~~waters~~

The statement was attributed to a highly authoritative source. It said that the United States Government is definitely in possession of facts which

corroborate the statement made by ^{Summer} Welles.

On the same day, we also get a slap in the face from Argentina. The Foreign Minister made a Columbus Day broadcast, in which he called for closer ties between Argentina and Spain. And he said:-

"The Hispano-Americanism of the future must be based on ~~xxxxxxx~~ spiritual, historical, geographical and economic facts which already hold truth." Inasmuch as Falangist Spain is virtually an annex to the Axis, that remark is hardly friendly to the United States.

UNIONS

John L. Lewis appears to be having his own way with his union, the United Mine Workers of America, as before. The U.M.W. has taken a definite step towards becoming a third major labor organization, a rival to the C.I.O. and the A.F. of L. The Constitutional Committee of the Union recommended five amendments, These would change the constitution to permit the taking in of workers in industries that have nothing to do with mining or even any of its associated fields.

Meanwhile, at Toronto, the American Federation of Labor convention was getting worked up over the recent action of the War Manpower Commission. ~~I mean~~ The action which forbade metal miners or lumber workers in the northwest from leaving their jobs and going into other industries. The A.F. of L. passed a resolution calling it a ^hasty action on the part of the War Manpower Commission. ^{That} If workers have to give up their rights to change jobs, ~~ixxxxxxxxx~~ they must in return be assured adequate representation of their own ~~xxxxxxxx~~ choosing, and, Social Security, to make up for their loss of ^{the} right to make personal decisions.

RUBBER

A committee of Senators heard some sharp words today in a discussion of the rubber situation. They had the new rubber boss making his first appearance as a witness, William M. Jeffers, former head of the Union Pacific Railroad. The reports of the affair describe the committee as distinctly hostile to Jeffers. For his part, he talked straight and he talked positively. He used these words:- "I do not intend to be influenced by anybody, anywhere, any time."

The Senators had been riled because Jeffers had issued an order substituting rayon for cotton as a base for motor car tires. This annoyed the Senators from the cotton states. He said that if the Army wants cotton in its tires, the Army will get cotton. That annoyed Senator Ellison D. Smith of South Carolina, Cotton Ed. Said he:- "In other words, we might as well quit because you are going to run the whole show."

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To which Jeffers replied:- "I am not going to put myself in a position where it can be said that I have not the intelligence or the guts to do a job."

And he added:- "The trouble with this whole situation is that it has been a muddle of men who were afraid that some congressional committee or pressure group would not like their decision. I," said Jeffers, "am going to make my decisions and I shall stand by them."

A Louisiana Senator said:- "If you go over to rayon, are you not creating a monopoly?"

Jeffers replied:- "I am going to make use of everybody, monopoly or otherwise." ~~And he added:-~~

"I have only one job to do, and that is to get rubber out to win the war." *And then added the President of the Union,* "I am not going to be too little and too late."

Pacific,
And maybe that leads into something you have to tell us, Hugh.