

P.T. - Sunoco. Friday, Dec. 4, 1942. 9

Today's news from the Navy indicates that the Japs on Guadalcanal are steadily weakening. Our forces on the island are in no hurry. They are ^{doing} ~~pursuing~~ a methodical, ~~thorough~~ job, the relentless task of exterminating all the Japs on Guadalcanal.

The Navy describes the fighting of the last three days as routine patrol operations. That means ~~in~~ the three days following the great naval battle reported yesterday, the battle in which we sank nine ships and destroyed probably seven thousand Jap soldiers and sailors.

Major General Mitchell, Director of Marine Aviation, said it is necessary to exterminate all the Japs on Guadalcanal before we can move to occupy the other Solomon Islands to the north. The General said he does not know how long the enemy can continue on Guadalcanal ~~before~~ ^{without} being reinforced ^{and provisioned}. The Jap does not

require a great deal of food and there is much native provender on the island. But he does ~~positively~~ need ~~a certain amount of~~ ammunition, ^{which he now} ~~and material, and these~~ ~~he can~~ get^s only in drib^lets.

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ADD SOLOMONS

Secretary of the Navy Frank ~~Knox~~ declared today that the Japs on Guadalcanal have run short of supplies. ^{and he} ~~He~~ believes ^{we} ~~that the Americans~~ have now won round Number Three of ^e ~~that~~ Battle of the Solomons. ^{also}

~~He~~ points out that American forces in the Solomons have now hurled back six major attempts of the Japs ^{to} ~~land new forces~~ ^{to invade the island} ~~land~~ ^{on Guadalcanal}

The Secretary spoke enthusiastically about Monday night's naval battle, the battle announced yesterday. He told his press conference the enemy completely failed to land either supplies or reinforcements. "But" he added, "the only safe theory is that they will come back as long as they can." That attempt to reinforce on Monday, he said, was a desperate effort and showed how acute the need of the Japs has become on Guadalcanal.

~~Reporters asked him about the Aleutians.~~

MacARTHUR

General ~~Douglas~~ MacArthur now has his headquarters on the island of New Guinea. For the first time since the desperate days of Bataan, he is leading an army in person. His headquarters on New Guinea are strictly secret, but only a short distance by air from the front line. ~~They are~~ Within easy range of Japanese planes, which have been dropping bombs nearby, ~~several times~~. But, the enemy has not yet hit MacArthur's camp.

His arrival on the island has brought about several innovations in the conduct of army operations there. The Australians and Americans are pressing the Japs closer and closer around ^{the} Buna and Gona bases. The Americans now have a battery of a hundred and five millimeter Howitzers, those stubby cannon which fire into the air. This was the first time so far as we know that the United States Army has flown artillery into action. Each two-ton gun, complete with its crew,

tractor and ammunition was carried ^{by} ~~into~~ flying fortress
~~from~~ ^{from} ~~in~~ Australia, ~~and flown~~ to an air base in
Papua.

Here the armament and men were ~~reloaded into~~
~~two transport planes for the hop across the Owen Stanley~~
~~Mountain range. The guns were assembled and got~~
~~together for action within four hours after landing.~~

~~That gives us a vivid idea of present day fighting~~
~~on New Guinea.~~

AFRICA

from North Africa

Tonight we have a story [^] that a violent battle is

raging around Mateur, south of Bizerte some twenty miles.

~~in Tunisia~~

We have no details. The story comes ^{-via} ~~from~~ [^] Radio Morocco,

from British sources.

~~which had it from British informers.~~ [^] Our own Allied

headquarters makes no mention of that battle. But Radio

Morocco was most insistent. It declared that in their

second counter-attack, ^[at Tebourba] the Germans used more than fifty

tanks, but most of those ~~xx~~ were destroyed or damaged.

The same radio claims that the Allies now

control the sector west of Djedeida. ^{a TP} The German radio

claims that ~~it was~~ forty American tanks ~~that~~ were

destroyed or captured near Tebourba. The Nazi agency

sticks to its claim that all the fighting there has been

in favor of the Germans and Italians. ^{In fact they say they} ~~They claim to~~ [^]

have British and American troops encircled, and that a

British attempt to relieve them by use of paratroops

was foiled.

~~All that is unofficial, but it seems there
may be some basis of truth in the German claims. For~~

H ^{admits}
London ~~reports information~~ that the Allied forces in
Tunisia have run into difficulties. They ^{se} are only
temporary; but still they are holding up the show. The
troops in the vanguard are hard pressed because they
are short of air support. ^H Evidently there is fighting
in the town of Tebourba itself. The Allies are holding
some positions in the town, but the Germans have advanced
to the west of Tebourba. It was admitted in London that
the Axis has been getting a considerable quantity of
reinforcements across the narrows from Sicily in spite
of strong British naval and air patrols. ~~Radio Morocco's~~
~~report of hard fighting at Mateur is corroborated by~~
~~dispatches from Spain.~~

But here is the official communique from our
own War Department in Washington. ~~This is not very~~

~~informative.~~ It ^{ing} announces that Allied forces attacked the enemy in the southern sector of Tunisia and captured a number of prisoners. Meanwhile, British and American troops have consolidated their positions near Tebourba twenty miles from Tunis. The army communique admits that Axis pressure has been heaviest there. ^{TR} American and British planes bombed the docks of Bizerte yesterday and made both day and night raids on the airfield of Tunis. Our fighter planes also swept over the forward areas and over the coastal district between Tunis and Gabes.

An official statement was published in North Africa today, announcing that Admiral Darlan as High Commissioner for the French Empire, has assumed the leadership of the French colonial empire. Furthermore, he will remain Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, air force and army. The statement continued that the City of Algiers shall be the true capital of France.

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The Nazis have seized Paul Reynaud, who was Premier of France ^{when} ~~until~~ the country collapsed in

Nineteen Forty. They also ^{have taken} ~~took~~ Georges Mandel, who

was Reynaud's Minister of the Interior. ^{These French leaders} ~~They had been~~

^{have been} in a French prison up to now, ^{held by the Vichy Govt.} According to reports

that have reached Madrid, Reynaud and Mandel ^{now} have been

transferred to Germany, ^{where they may be} ~~In all probability they will~~

^{treated harshly. For} ~~be savagely treated.~~ Both Reynaud and Mandel are

listed as war criminals by the Nazis.

Along with other former French Cabinet

Ministers, they were tried ^{at Riom} last Spring, on charges

of war guilt. But ^{the} ~~that~~ trial turned out to be such

a boomerang that it was dropped.

A dispatch from Switzerland reports that

Edouard Herriot, three times Premier of France, has

also been arrested and will be sent to one of the

strictest Nazi prisons.

RUSSIA

52
The Nazis today announced that the Russians had begun several new attacks in great strength in spite of ^{severe cold,} ~~the temperature's twenty below freezing point.~~

They have pushed both tank and cavalry into the area between the Volga and the Don and around the great bend of the Don. But the German high command also said that its own operation in the big bend had taken what it called a favorable course. The communique used these words:- "Continuing the embittered fighting between the Volga and the Don, repeated strong attacks by the Soviets collapsed yesterday with heavy losses."

The German high' command also admitted that new strong Russian attacks have been launched northeast ^{(on the Black Sea} of Tuapse) and on the Terek River in the Caucasus.

The Germans claim to have made considerable gains north of the Terek.

The Russians, for their side, claim that a

strong force of Russian cavalry had torn deep into the rear of the German lines to the southwest of Stalingrad. The Red horsemen are reported to have compelled the Nazis to evacuate several sections of the railroad from Stalingrad to Tikoretsk.

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Military experts over here have been examining that Russian situation in the sober light of realism, and they tell us ~~that~~ we have been led to ~~expect~~ ^{expect} too much from the ^{over sanguine} Russian reports. It is true that the

Russians have made advances; ^{which} ~~for~~ the Germans admit. ~~It~~ though they say they were only local successes. But

the ^{Nazis} ~~Germans~~ have not given up any key points. They have ^{not even} ~~not~~ given up ^{their hold in} Stalingrad; ^{not} ~~they~~ have not given up

Rzhev. They are ~~holding on a line that runs from~~ Stalingrad to Rostov, then through Voronezh to Kaluga, Vyazma, Rozhev and on up to Lake Ilmen and Leningrad. Though the Russians claimed to be west of

the railroad junction at Velikie Luki, that does not necessarily mean that either Velikie Luki or Rzhev is cut off.

Military experts point out that last winter the Russians had more than one German position encircled. But the troops defending those positions managed to hold out through the winter and defend themselves though surrounded. They depended upon the supplies they had on the ^{scene} ~~place~~ or fresh supplies dropped by air transport. ~~Even though the besiegers of Stalingrad are surrounded by Timoshenko's Red army, that does not mean that those encircled Nazi divisions will be annihilated. They may well be able to hold out all through the coming winter, just as they did in similar positions last winter.~~

LEHMAN

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There was an informal but important ceremony at the White House today. In President Roosevelt's office, Herbert H. Lehman, former Governor of New York, ~~State,~~ took his oath as Director of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation. ^{The now Ex-Governor} ~~Mr. Lehman~~ said:- "I intend to give due attention to the problems of the many millions among our Allies who have suffered severely from the horrors of war." And he added that this would not be on one continent or region alone, but wherever people are found in need. At the same time, the President gave Mr. Lehman a letter expressing special confidence in Lehman's ability to discharge the manifold duties which lie before him.

MANPOWER

We have been hearing a lot about a shake-up in the Cabinet. But ^{a member} ~~an officer~~ of the Democratic National Committee ^{— who ought to know — says he does} ~~said he did~~ not believe it ~~would~~ ^{will} come to pass. Edwin H. Pauley, Secretary and Treasurer ^{Dem. Nat.} of the Committee, had a conference with the President at the White House today, in which they discussed that reported shake-up.

^{Apparently} ~~This means that~~ the manpower job will remain in the hands of the present Commissioner Paul McNutt.

Secretary Ickes will ^{stay on as} ~~remain~~ Secretary of the Interior, Madam Perkins will continue to be ^{a not very busy} Secretary of Labor.

^{declared} ~~The way Pauley put it was that he was not quoting the President, but, said he: "I would not be surprised if McNutt kept that job."~~

⁵⁵ We have no answer to ^{of} ~~That leaves unanswered~~ the question, ^{how}

soon Mr. Roosevelt will announce his new manpower program. ^{The President} ~~he~~ told his press conference ^{today} that something

would develop soon. ~~He also said he would have something to announce about the establishment of a food administration before long.~~

The need for solving the manpower problem cropped up in a new quarter today. Joseph B. Eastman, Director of Defense Transportation, said the transportation industry would have to find and train half a million new workers by mid-summer of Nineteen Forty-Three. In order to do their war jobs, the railroads will need a hundred and sixty-eight thousand of these, the trucking industry will require sixty-five thousand, air transport fifty thousand, and so forth. It may be necessary, said Eastman, to use older workers.

RUBBER

The rubber situation is critical, says William M. Jeffers, ^{director of rubber. And he} ~~chief authority for that crucial product.~~

He has asked for complete control of gasoline rationing. This is necessary, he ~~says~~, in order to clear up confusion in the minds of the public.

Publicity about gas rationing, ~~says~~ Jeffers, has been ^mstemming from a multiplicity of agencies.

If this goes on, it will cause further confusion and will prevent the public from ~~accepting rationing and~~ cooperating willingly. ^H The Baruch Report on Rubber set a hundred and twenty thousand tons as the minimum stock pile that we need. There is grave danger that the supply may fall below that ^(danger) ~~disaster~~ ^{line.}

The authorities previously in charge of rubber, took so long to make up their minds, that the construction of synthetic rubber plants was delayed. The program is already behind the schedule visualized by the

Baruch Committee. Any further delay would make it impossible to keep the stock pile from dropping below the danger line.

LEINER

The Department of Justice today illustrated the ~~good~~ old ~~American~~ proverb that there is more than one way of skinning a cat. Last week a citizen named Helmut Leiner was on trial, charged with treason for having helped two of the Nazi saboteurs who were executed last summer. The jury acquitted Leiner.

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Dept. of Justice
Today the ~~D. J.~~^{^ ^} obtained fresh indictments from a federal grand jury against Leiner on charges of trading with the enemy and misprision^{zh} of treason. The Government says ~~Leiner~~^{he} traded with the enemy because he took a hundred and fifty dollars from one of the Nazi saboteurs and changed it into small bills. The misprision of treason indictment charges that he had secret knowledge of the treasonous activities of the sweetheart of that same saboteur. The lady herself pleaded guilty to misprision and took a sentence of three years in a federal penitentiary.

W.P.A.

Exit the W.P.A., for a long time the subject of more gags than anything else in politics. President Roosevelt today wrote ~~to~~ Major General Fleming, Federal Works Administrator, that war work had reached a point where a national work relief program is no longer necessary. He therefore directed General Fleming to liquidate the affairs of the Works Project Administration.

That means the closing out of all W.P.A. operations in many states by February, Nineteen Forty-Three. And in other states as soon after that as possible. The President let it be known quite decidedly that he was proud of the W.P.A. He wrote General Fleming that it has earned an honorable discharge with the satisfaction of a good job well done. Mr. Roosevelt read the letter aloud to his press conference ^{today} ~~this morning~~.

He also wrote that some workers who still remain on the W.P.A. rolls may have to be helped out by

the states or communities. Others, he added, would be able to find work on farms or in industry at the prevailing rates of pay.

58/2
While it lasted, ~~the~~ W.P.A. was quite a Santa Claus. Up to the day before yesterday, it had spent ten billion, four hundred and seventy-eight million, five hundred and ninety-four thousand, two hundred and ninety-seven dollars and eight cents.

My mind ~~grasps~~ grasps the magnitude ~~Maybe the eight cents was for nails to hammer hands on~~ of the 8-cents. But not the ten billion, ~~to the shovels.~~

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And what does your mind encompass, Hugh?