

SOLOMONS

L.I. - Suwoco. Friday, Oct. 30, 1942.

Tonight we have the most favorable Solomon Island picture that we've had for days -- ever since the big Jap assault began. A late bulletin from Washington gives us a statement by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox: He informs us that the Japanese fleet has retired from the oceanic battle field.

~~There have been no large scale warship operations in the Solomon ^SIslands recently.~~ The Japs had two strong naval units, one north of Guadalcanal and the other northeast of that island. Both of these enemy fleet units have left the scene of action.

The Secretary was asked -- might they ~~not~~ be preparing to take other American bases. He replied by characterizing the idea as -- "pure speculation." "But, of course," he added, "they could attack anywhere."

The first round of the Jap attempt to ~~oust~~ ^{oust} us from the Solomons is over. And the situation now is what the Secretary called -- "waiting for the second round to start."

He was asked how we came out on points in the first round of the battle. To this he replied: "We are still in Guadalcanal, occupying every inch of ground we ever controlled." And he reiterated that with ~~another~~ phraseology. "We are," said he, "in complete control of the situation on Guadalcanal -- as complete as we ever were."

One of the best bits of information the Secretary had to give concerned ~~our~~ supply line for the Marines and regular Army troops. There ^{has} been worry lest those stout-hearted fighting men of ours might be left short of provisions and munitions. Now Secretary Knox corrects that idea. "We have got supplies ⁱ in during the present operation and before it," he stated ^d, and add^{ed}: "There has been no interruption in our communications."

Summarizing the news he declared: "I don't want to give the impression of optimism, ^{but} ~~by~~ --". And he

followed that "but" with a ringing tribute to our troops in Guadalcanal. "They have done a superb job," he said.

Secretary Knox closed the statement by referring the newsmen to ^{the} ~~the~~ Navy Communique issued earlier today. So let's take a look at it.

ADD SOLOMONS

~~Today's Navy bulletin~~ ^{It} tells of events that occurred on October Twenty-Eighth, Twenty-Ninth and Thirtieth. For ^{Oct.} ~~the~~ Twenty-Eighth ^{states:-} it ~~was:-~~ "Activity ashore on Guadalcanal Island was confined to small skirmishes between United States and enemy patrols."

Meaning the Japs had discontinued their constant land assaults on the Twenty¹/₂Eighth, and for the succeeding two days the Navy bulletin makes no mention at all of ground activity. So we suppose that the lull of action on land continued. *The Japs having had enough of it - apparently.*

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The communique says:- "A total of twelve Japanese light tanks were destroyed in action during the past week." ^{is} ~~is~~ This is the first time that enemy tank losses on Guadalcanal Island have been listed.

Under the heading of air action, we have successful bombing ^S ~~A~~ by American warplanes. And our fighters destroyed two enemy seaplanes. ^{TR} One entirely

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unsuccessful enemy air raid is reported. Jap bombers attacked Guadalcanal positions of marines and regular troops but did so poorly that all their bombs dropped in the water.

Of the events of three days, the latest listed by the Navy bulletin is an attack ^{our} by _^ motor torpedo boats. Those speedy little craft took a sock at a Jap destroyer, and a torpedo hit was scored. The destroyer, when last seen, was motionless on the water - crippled apparently.

EGYPT

In Egypt, the British pressed their attack today although their advance has been slowed down. Cairo reports that Rommel has massed tanks and guns at the point where the British spearhead is being driven forward. And that has diminished the speed of the drive -- which never has been very fast at any time.

But Cairo states that the Imperial attack is being pressed so fiercely that numbers of Germans are deserting their units and surrendering to the British. They are said to be not at all like previous Nazi prisoners, who were grim, hardened believers in the Hitler cause. The captives that are being taken now are described as being younger, hardly more than boys -- and glad enough to be taken out of the war. Many of the deserters say they served on the Russian front and add that the tremendous British artillery fire in Egypt is far worse than anything they experienced on the eastern front -- before Leningrad or Moscow.

The British and American air forces are eternally

busy, smashing at the enemy. In this battle U.S. fighters have now shot down twenty-two enemy planes, with a loss of only two of their own -- this in five days of fighting.

The American ace out there is First Lieutenant Middleditch of Union, New Jersey, who has shot down four Messerschmitts. Lieutenant Middleditch used to be a printer's devil in his father's New York shop. The Nazi airmen are willing to leave out the "printer" part of it and call him -- a fighting devil.

A summary of the Egyptian battle was given today by Axis Rome, and it is an enemy picture that looks rather favorable for the United Nations. An Italian military commentator today stated on the Rome Radio that in Egypt the British hold a more favorable position than the Axis; that their supply bases in Egypt are nearer to the battlefield, while the Axis is compelled to transport supplies across the water under constant attack. So the Nazis are faced with supply difficulties. Rome may be preparing the Italian people for a reverse.

ROOSEVELT

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Today we learn that there are some things that the President of the United States does not dare to talk about. For example - reports from London that American troops are now stationed in the West African Republic of Liberia. ^{This rumor} ~~This~~ ties in with surmises that a great United Nations offensive may be launched in

Africa - (perhaps across the Sahara Desert or perhaps in the direction of the French African colonies dominated by the Vichy Government. Both Vichy and the Axis have been putting forth increasingly insistent stories that there might be a United Nations move to seize the key West African port of Dakar - or possibly Casa Blanca, which is in French Morocco.)

At the White House news conference today, the President was asked - What about the London story of American troops in Liberia? He replied by saying that

the report, if true, involved the operational movements of troops - which put it under the heading of military information. So, before discussing such a subject, he'd want to consult with our military command. And unless the Army and Navy chiefs agreed to it, ~~it~~ he wouldn't dare ~~to~~ talk about American troops in Liberia.

This takes us to the subject of General Eisenhower - another theme on which the President did not dare ~~to~~ talk. ^{It} ~~It~~ has been rumored that the commander of the American forces in Europe was returning home to consult with high officers over here - and ~~xxxxxxx~~ with the President, presumably: The purported Eisenhower trip is taken to have some reference to a second front - the idea being that the General is coming over here to consult about plans for a United Nations offensive against the Nazis in Europe. The President was asked - Was it true that our European

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Commander is returning? And once again he said that this was a matter of military information, about which he did not dare to talk.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is renowned for his talent with words, but there are some subjects on which he can display a large talent for silence.

RUSSIA

In Russia, the Nazis today pushed forward for another gain at Stalingrad just as they have done each day for the past several days. These German advances have been small, ^{--each} a push forward of a hundred to two hundred yards. Moscow says, however, the aggregate of the several small gains, putting them together, may be serious - and increase the peril of the Soviet defenders in the battle-scarred industrial center on the Volga.

This news from within the city itself is balanced by the Russian drive into the Nazi line south of Stalingrad. There, Soviet forces are battering at the southern side of the Nazi wedge that has been thrust to the Volga. And they are making progress, Moscow reporting the recapture of three villages.

To the south, in the Caucasus, Soviet successes are likewise reported along the coast of the Black Sea.

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There, Red Army forces, fighting in a blizzard, seized a strategic hill. The news is less favorable for the Russians on the other side of the Caucasus, with the Germans attacking to seize the Grozny oilfields and reach the Caspian. Moscow tells of further Red army ~~x~~ withdrawals in that area.

FORD

It may seem odd to hear of a factory being sold to Russia. How would you get the factory across the ocean? Yet, the announcement was made today that the Ford Motor Company Tire Manufacturing Plant at Detroit has been sold for shipment to the land of the Soviets.

And

It's one of the most modern rubber tire plants in the country; but ~~it~~ has not been in operation recently, - the rubber situation being what it is. ^R Actually, of course, the sending of the factory to Russia really means - its equipment. Last summer President Roosevelt decided that the Soviets ^{sh} would get a lot of tire manufacturing machinery from us, and the sale of the Ford tire plant now will fulfill this commitment. The machinery and other equipment is expected to produce a million tires a year in Russia.

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MANPOWER

The question of registering women for war production was raised again today -- with President Roosevelt stating that he may issue a call for all women to go on record and list the kind of work that they can do. ^{IT} The nation is threatened with a shortage of labor ^{for} ~~in~~ the making of armament. The President explained today that the situation is not so bad right now; but, an acute shortage of workers is expected to develop next year, -- with more and more men being taken into the Army and more and more labor ~~needed for expanding war production.~~ ^{IT} He added that women represented ~~ed~~ the largest labor source from which to procure new workers. ~~Of all people who are not now employed in armament production, and might be women are the most numerous by far.~~ So, in an effort to get them into war industry, it may be necessary to have them register. This would give the government a chance to determine the amount of available woman power, -- ~~the women telling what they could do and what they'd~~

~~like to do for the manufacture of weapons for the soldiers.~~ The President added that this registration idea ~~is~~ is being considered, but no decision has yet been made.

He emphasized that there will be no compulsory drafting of women. Nobody has any idea of making them go to the war factories. The plan would be merely to register ^{women} ~~them~~ for voluntary service.

But what about the compulsory mobilization of industrial manpower -- drafting ^{masculine} labor into war production? This has been talked about a good deal, and recently there have been reports that the government has abandoned the idea -- has dropped all plans to assign workers to certain jobs, ~~and make them take these jobs.~~ ~~xx~~ The President denied the rumors. He said that nothing has been abandoned. He explained that no decision has yet been reached about drafting labor, ~~and that studies of the whole situation are continuing.~~

workers in Well in all this discussion
war production, there is one thing to be noted.

Hundreds of thousands of the unskilled are becoming skilled -- are being taught all sorts of trades that will be the greatest value to them. American industry is training myriads of men and women to do new jobs, better jobs, and ~~these~~ ^{they} after the war will have a wider choice of employment; ~~They will have~~ wider opportunities under our American system, which rewards its people in direct proportion to their ambition and initiative.

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FRATERNITY

In many places all over the world tonight, tribute is being paid to fifteen hundred men in the armed forces. A college fraternity ~~is~~ honoring those of its members ~~that are~~ in the Army, Navy and Marines. ~~It's~~ Theta Delta Chi, ^{with a} ~~not the largest fraternity.~~ ~~Its~~ membership ^{of} ~~is~~ only about ten thousand. ~~They are~~ Men of all ages, ~~and~~ So fifteen hundred is a large percentage to be in uniform.

DIES COMMITTEE

The Dies Committee is in action again - this time in connection with the New York election and the Communist Party. Recently, the New York State American Legion attacked the petitions by which three Communist candidates were put on the ballot. The Legion claimed that the signatures on the documents were fraudulent. This charge was taken to the courts, and was tossed out - because the Legion had failed to file its protest soon enough. So now the Dies Committee is going to look into those debated ~~petitions~~ petitions and disputed signatures. The Committee today subpoenaed the documents, and will examine them.

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The Communist Party is conducting a vigorous campaign for its candidates, and has distributed seven hundred and fifty thousand tabloid sheets throughout the state. These feature the slogan - "For the Second Front now, vote Communist."

VOTING

President Roosevelt today called upon all of us to go to the polls next Tuesday and vote. He issued an appeal at his press conference, and said - "We are engaged in an all-out war to keep democracy alive and that," he added, "includes using not only bullets but ballots."

~~Then followed this statement: "I hope very much that the press and radio will tell all the citizens of the United States that the President hopes they will go to the polls next Tuesday and vote." So let's give that appeal all possible publicity.~~

The President also called upon employers everywhere to arrange work schedules on Election Day so that all their employees can vote - and not suffer deductions in pay for the time out to cast the ballot^s.

After these injunctions, it is hardly necessary to add that the President himself will do his duty as a

citizen - registering his own vote in his own state,

New York. Will he vote the Democratic ticket or the

Republican - for Bennett or for Dewey, in the race for

Governor? You can make your own surmise about that.

But I can tell you one candidate the President will not

vote for. I don't know why it was necessary for so

superfluous a question to be asked, but one of the

newsmen inquired - Was it fair to assume that he would

not vote for Ham Fish? The President replied - Yes,

it was fair to assume. So to say that he will vote for

Ham would be a fish story.

CANDIDATE

58 1/2 I don't know if you ~~xxxxxx~~ believe in signs and portents, but here is something that might be an omen forecasting an election result in Delaware. There, J. Morris Harrington is the Republican nominee for State Auditor. He carried on his campaign activities today, although he had some mighty sore ribs. The Republican candidate was kicked by a donkey. And that might be considered as ominous as if a Democratic candidate were tossed over the fence by an elephant. Eh, Hugh?

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