

RUSSIA

C.T. - Sunday, Tues, Jan. 12, 1943.

The Russians are sweeping on into the Caucasus, ^{with} ~~and~~ the Cossacks ~~are~~ leading the charge. Today's dispatch from Moscow tells how an outfit of Cossack cavalry drove thirteen miles up the Caucasus railroad - the Wild Horsemen of the Steppes riding in headlong advance.

There is a romantic turn to this - the Cossacks taking back their own home country. ~~For~~ For many a long year ~~xxx~~ these legended riders of the great plains ~~xxx~~ have had the Caucasus for their stamping ground. Stamping is right - the hoofs of horses doing it. In their big offensive last summer, the mechanized forces of the Nazis seized a large part of the Caucasian Steppes. But now the Cossacks are riding back.

Moscow today states that Red Army troops are driving rapidly from two directions, on two important

cities - one of them being the great industrial center
of Voroshilov. ^{They are} ~~and~~ advancing from Georgievsk, previously
captured. Moscow says the Axis ~~xxxxxxxx~~ retreat is
becoming a rout in some places.

~~The general impression seems to be that the
Germans are pulling in their line at a rapid rate.
This would account for the speed in the Soviet advance.~~

AFRICA - 2

Here is a late dispatch which states that in Libya, the British Eighth Army has begun an attack on the defense lines of Rommel's East Afrika Korps. The Germans are at a place called Zem Zem, a hundred and ^{- five} sixty _^ miles from Tripoli, the Number One Axis base. Tonight's news comes from Radio Morocco, and it may indicate a full scale drive, to send Rommel reeling back again.

AFRICA - 2.

In Tunisia, French forces have launched an offensive against the Nazis, and have captured a strategic pass in the hills. Through this pass runs a road of some importance.

In ^{still} another push staged by the French, ^a ~~the~~ Nazi force has been surrounded. It ^{is} in a trap beyond hope of escape, says a dispatch from Allied headquarters.

Beyond that, the rest of the story in Tunisia is air action, with Allied bombers striking incessantly at the ^{Axis.} ~~Nazis~~. It ^{is} really a two-way offensive. ~~All~~ ~~Planes~~ based on Tunis striking from one side, and from the other the British in Libya send their squadrons ~~to~~ ~~strike at the Nazis~~ ^{against the enemy} in Tunisia.

And the air action has extended all the way to Italy, with American bombers raiding Naples. London states that they started a big fire and shot down an Axis fighter plane. Rome tells of the raid, and ~~indicates~~ indicates that considerable damage was done in Naples.

FRENCH FLEET

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We hear that Laval has agreed to surrender the remnants of the French fleet to Hitler. After the French crew^s scuttled their warships at Toulon to keep them from falling into Nazi hands, five destroyers and two tugs remained - the only useful vessels left.

So says
These the Nazis will get. - ~~according to~~ a Fighting French spokesman in London.

He said that Laval, as chief of the Vichy Government, conferred with Hitler at Berchtesgaden, and Laval agreed ~~with Hitler~~ that France would send four hundred thousand workers to Germany to ease the Nazi labor shortage and also ^{that} Hitler would get - the five destroyers and two tugs.

SOUTH PACIFIC

Today's Navy bulletin tells of a violent air battle in the waters of Guadalcanal. A force of dauntless dive bombers, escorted by Wildcat fighters, was attacked by twelve Jap Zeros. ^{Battle} ~~Planes~~ whirled in the sky, plane attacking plane with blazing machine guns. Two Zeros were shot down and two others were possibly destroyed. Our loss - ~~only~~ one; a Wildcat fighter that failed to return. ^P The Navy bulletin continues with its usual daily note about American bombers blasting the Jap airfield at Munda.

LAFHEY

Today we were given an epic story of heroism and thrill - in the sinking of the United States Destroyer LAFHEY. That vessel was one of the ships identified

last night. (The LAFHEY went to the bottom after fighting a Japanese battleship at the closest range. The Twelfth Naval District at San Francisco, in giving out the story, says - "The LAFHEY passed so close under the bow of the speeding Japanese battleship, that the range would have been point blank with pea shooters.")

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In the wild melee of battle, the eighteen hundred ton craft engaged a small cruiser first, knocked out the cruiser's searchlights and silenced its guns. Then came the colossal thing, which the Navy describes in these words: ~~XXXXXXXX~~ "Out ^{of} ~~from~~ the shadow of Guadalcanal came a Japanese battleship. The LAFHEY moved in as a terrier moves in on a grizzly - outweighed twenty to one; says the Navy account,

And it
~~The account~~

goes on to tell how the destroyer let go a salvo of torpedoes and it appeared that two of them hit. The speed of the two ships carried them close together, the destroyer passing in front of the battleship.

"As the bows crossed," says the Navy, "the Japanese on the forward deck could have tossed a hand-grenade on the deck of the destroyer." At that range, the LAFFEY turned all four of its five inch guns against the Jap sea monster. "The ~~xx~~ battleship's bridge," relates the Navy account, "appeared literally to pulverize and blow away - it was shot completely off the ship."

To which we may add - it was David and Goliath all over again.

Then followed a wild melee as U.S.S. LAFFEY mixed it with Japanese destroyers. She sank

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one. But another ^{Jap} scored a torpedo hit. The LAFFEY
got out of it - hopelessly battered and on fire.

The crew abandoned her, and later the destroyer sank -
~~xxxxxxx~~ when an internal explosion ripped her apart.

HORNET

In the sinking of the HORNET, the Japs lost plenty too. The aircraft carrier was attacked by sixty-four enemy planes, and shot down fifty-nine before the order was given -- "Abandon ship." That was mighty effective gunning, and one man told today about it -- Gunner's Mate Alvin Grahn of Roseau, Minnesota. "Our guns were all manned and ready," said he, "it was just like the pause before a football game, when everybody is listening for the referee's whistle. And suddenly a shout 'Here they come, commence firing.'"

Gunner's Mate Clifford Butterfield of Idaho Falls, Idaho, says: "The enemy came in all around us. We let 'em have it, and they let us have it. It was like shooting wild geese," he adds.

Two Jap warplanes crashed aboard the carrier. One was a dive bomber, shot up and disabled. It plunged onto the deck near the bridge, and there exploded -- flaming gasoline was sprayed and a fire was started.

The other Japanese aircraft was a torpedo plane, and it came in flying low. Launching a torpedo, it tried to turn and get away --- but ~~it~~ was hit. Bullets from the carrier's guns shot away the controls of the torpedo plane, and it swung around wildly. Bad luck sent it straight toward the HORNET. The Jap crashed into a row of officers' staterooms, and exploded there.

Bombed and on fire, the HORNET was beyond saving, and the crew was ordered to leave the ship. Most of them were saved. Two bakers hurried below the decks to have a last look at their bake shop. ^{There} They saw a sight that nearly broke their hearts.

"We had ten thousand doughnuts and five thousand mince pies all ready to serve to the men during a lull in the battle," says Frederick Plath of Macallen, Texas. "There wasn't any lull," he adds.

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"We had a large quantity of dough waiting to be made into bread," says Joseph ^{Laino} ~~Laird~~ of Brooklyn.

"It was all over the floor about a foot deep. The
heat," he explains, ^{the baker,} "sure made that dough rise!"

GUADALCANAL - MARINE

The news from Guadalcanal ~~today~~ illustrates a new thing in journalism -- the soldier or sailor war correspondent. The army and navy have trained men in the service to report the fighting they go through -- which makes them newspaper-men-warriors. With the Marines at Guadalcanal is Sergeant Richard H. Venn, whose title is Marine Corps combat correspondent. He cables the story of how sixty Marines attacked ~~from~~ ^{some} two hundred Japanese in jungle defense positions.

"Fighting in evil marshland," writes Sergeant Venn, "the Marines took and gave machinegun fire so heavy that it splintered trees into matchwood. For forty-five minutes," he goes on, "the Marines fought waste deep in water, ankle deep in sticky slime along a sixty yard front. Automatic riflemen, their weapons spurting water, their clips water-logged, sprayed fire at Japanese ~~fire~~ ^{snipers} concealed in the treetops. When night fell," the Leatherneck newspaperman concludes, "the shattered enemy had fled from his

maze of trenches and foxholes."

So that's how the Marines fight -- and how
a war correspondent of their own ranks reports it.

GUADALCANAL

Also
~~Tonight we have some sidelights on the long and bitter fighting at Guadalcanal.~~ ⁷⁷ The Japs have given ~~the~~ *Guadalcanal* ~~place~~ a new name. They call it - Death Island. This is stated by marine officers who have just returned from the Solomons, and they give a reason for the sombre appellation. "We ~~fix~~ found documents," they explained, "which carried orders that no Jap was to return home alive if the island was not recaptured."

One marine officer ~~xxxxxxx~~ tells us likewise about the mechanical ways of the enemy. They fight like automata. Captain Louis Aronson, a former football player of Wesleyan University, describes a battle in which sixty Japs charged a fortified hill held by the marines. The enemy hadn't a chance, it was plain suicide.

"All sixty were either killed or wounded," says Captain Aronson. "Later, when I asked a Jap

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sergeant-major why they attacked as they did, he said that they had been ordered to attack at a certain time and in a certain way. There was no commissioned officer there to countermand the original order - so it was carried out as given," ^{said the Jap.} ~~says the captain.~~

~~Apparently the marines out there thought the Japs would show some signs of having played baseball - they having adopted that typical American game to some extent. The leathernecks relate baseball to grenade throwing. ~~##~~ "Our marines," said an officer today, "are crackajacks with grenades - principally because they have played a lot of baseball." He indicated that the Japs are not so good at tossing the explosive missiles. "I don't believe that many of the Japs ~~xxxx~~ we ran up against ever played baseball," said he.~~

TAX

One of the slogans in Washington nowadays is - Pay-as-you-go. With new giant taxation in prospect, Congress is in a mood to give plenty of consideration to a plan whereby people would pay their income taxes as they earn the income - along the line of the Ruml Plan.

Today, Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn said that a pay-as-you-go tax program is likely to come up for consideration in the near future. A bill is ready and waiting - a measure sponsored by Congressman Frank Carlson of Kansas. He stated today that his plan includes the much debated feature - that of skipping the taxes on last year's income, the taxes that should be paid this year. Instead, people would pay as they went on this year's income. ^R He told Congress today that twenty-seven million people are in debt to the government for income taxes. Under pay-as-you-go, nobody would be in debt - as everyone would pay ^{as he goes.} ~~the levy~~ ~~on income as it was earned.~~

TAX COLLECTIONS

The Treasury today gave us some facts about tax collections. The Victory Tax, the deduction of five per cent from all wages above twelve dollars a week, has only begun - but it is showing big things. The Treasury estimates that fifty million Americans are paying the five per cent Victory Tax, and it predicted that during Nineteen Forty-Three the Government would derive from it some two billion dollars, which, however, is a long way from paying the year's cost of war. The Treasury figures that at more than a hundred billion dollars.

The Treasury gives us figures for the collections of the regular income tax - joint figures. The returns from the fiscal year that ended last June Thirtieth were the largest in history, and exceeded the combined totals for the two previous years. During that last fiscal year the Treasury collected more than

thirteen million dollars. That, however, is rather small
when compared with the amount the Administration proposes
to collect during the Nineteen Forty-Four fiscal year -
fifty-one billion dollars.

CORN

The price of America's largest farm crop was ~~frozen~~^{limited} today - corn. A ceiling price was named - the highest price level at which corn was sold yesterday. The ~~freezing~~^{price ceiling} order is because of sharp rises in corn prices - ~~xxxx~~ these not having been subject to regulation, not until now.

Today's action was taken by Stabilization Director Byrnes with the approval of Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard. The ~~freezing~~ order is a temporary affair, and will last for sixty days. At the end of that period, a permanent price level will be placed on corn. Some varieties of the yellow grain are excepted from the ~~freezing~~ edict, like popcorn and sweet corn.

TRESCA

In New York the statement was made today that the killers of Carlo Tresca were professionals. Tresca, famous for years as a radical, was shot down last night in the neighborhood of the office of the newspaper he ran. He was an editor of an anti-Fascist publication.

~~However,~~ Tresca was known for years, sometimes as a sensational, and always as a colorful character. He called himself an anarchist, and ~~for years~~ was mixed up with radical Labor violence. But he was one of those expansive Latin characters who gave more the impression of being flamboyant than dangerous. Last night, while walking with a co-worker on lower Fifth Avenue, two killers stalked ^{him.} ~~him.~~ One darted behind him, and a murderous gun blazed.

The immediate assumption ~~of many~~ is that Tresca was killed at the behest of Fascist Italians -- he having been for so long an enemy of Fascism.

Today the man who was with him, told the story of the assassination and stated: "They were evidently ~~xxxx~~ professional killers, because they moved with such precision and accuracy."

~~The New York District Attorney announces he has subpoenaed thirty persons, including Max Eastman, the well-known writer who was Tresca's biographer and close friend. Several hours before he was killed Tresca had lunch with John dos Passos, another prominent writer.~~

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PETRILLO

At a Senate Committee hearing today James Caesar Petrillo, President of the Musicians Union, put it up to President Roosevelt. The committee is investigating the ban that Petrillo and his Union have put on recordings. They won't allow recorded music to be played. Petrillo defended the anti-recording policy, saying that it produced more jobs for musicians. But he made this concession, in these words: "After an explanation to the President of the United States, if he decides to stop the ban and says that records shall be made again for the duration of the war, I say the request shall be granted."

CROOK

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There is no kind of crook lower than a thief who steals out of the poor box in the church. Yet one such petty pilferer had an excuse today - and he thought it was a good one.

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In a Jersey City court he told why he went to the church. He had got into a crap game and dropped all his cash. "I lost several hundred dollars at dice," he told the judge, "and I came to church to pray that I might win it back." I suppose he felt sure that his prayer would be answered, and all he needed was some money to get back into the crap game. So he robbed the poor box!

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Hugh, how do you figure that?