

C. J. - Sunoco. Thursday, Oct. 15, 1942.

Tonight a critical battle is raging on the island of Guadalcanal, <sup>in the Solomons,</sup> The Jap enemy succeeded in landing reinforcements - sufficient fresh forces to bring the struggle for the island to a climax. The news bulletins use such phrases as:- "intensive Japanese reoccupation drive"; "powerful Japanese attempt to recapture their lost bases;" "marines and ~~big~~ army ground forces fighting desperately to maintain their toeholds." <sup>¶</sup> And, at the same time, the Jap sky squadrons have succeeded in bombing the air base we hold on Guadalcanal and the flying field has been shelled by the guns of warships off the coast.

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The South Sea island of Guadalcanal <sup>has</sup> ~~is~~ a sort of oval shape, about a hundred miles long and twenty-five miles wide. The length of the island is traversed by a range of mountains. On the northern shore is the air base - of key importance. This was

the goal captured by our forces in their famous landing attack weeks ago, and they have kept it ever since. They have been fighting incessantly, beating off many Jap attacks, <sup>and with our lads</sup> and gaining more ground.

Their position tonight is described as about this - our troops hold the air base and adjacent strips of land. They have dug in and now are defending themselves against a culminating attack.

The sequence of events that led to the present critical situation is given by a Navy bulletin issued today. In a day-by-day account, it states:- "On October Thirteenth, during the afternoon, the airfield at Guadalcanal was twice bombed by enemy aircraft. Three enemy planes were shot down, and one U.S. fighter was lost."

The communique goes on to state that toward night, American reinforcements were landed on

Guadalcanal. <sup>Our</sup> ~~The~~ troop transports were attacked by Japanese bombers, <sup>but</sup> ~~But~~ the enemy did <sup>not</sup> do so well. <sup>TP</sup> None of our ships ~~were~~ damaged. During the night of the thirteenth, the Guadalcanal air base was heavily bombarded by ~~Japanese~~ warships, a force consisting of destroyers, cruisers and battleships. They shelled the airfield and in an exchange of fire our shore guns scored three hits on ~~the~~ Jap destroyers.

The next day, October Fourteenth, the Navy communique states: "During the afternoon, Guadalcanal airfield was attacked by two separate groups of enemy bombers, each with fighter escort. Our fighters were unable to intercept the first flight, which contained about twenty-five."

The Navy report adds that the second Jap air attack was made by fifteen bombers and our planes shot down <sup>nine</sup> ~~fifteen~~ of them - also four fighters

escorting them. Only one American fighter plane was lost.

*Today.*

October Fifteenth, The Japs landed troops on the north coast of Guadalcanal Island, west of the air base that our soldiers are holding. The ~~Jap~~ enemy landing was covered by destroyers, cruisers and a battleship. These were attacked by our planes. Three direct hits were made on one enemy transport, and two other transports were left burning. The Jap battleship was bombed and damaged.

~~On this same day,~~ Today, the Navy states:-

"Other enemy forces, including heavy units, had been sighted in the vicinity of Guadalcanal<sup>)</sup> ~~Island.~~"

The mention of heavy units must mean big cruisers or battleships.

And the Navy bulletin concludes:- "U.S. army troops are participating in the defense of Guadalcanal.

This follows a statement issued in Washington by Secretary of War Stimson - that soldiers of the regular army have been landed to help the marines in the climactic hour of their fight.

For climax it is. The enemy has landed reinforcements, in spite of the smashing and sinkings inflicted on the Japs in recent days by our warships and warplanes. We, too, have landed reinforcements, and now the Japs are moving on Guadalcanal with more troops and equipment. Climax, indeed, for our brave men who are defending <sup>that far away</sup> ~~the~~ space of tropical shore ~~for their country.~~

GENERAL ARNOLD

While in Washington on Tuesday, I had a long talk with General Arnold, Commander of the Army Air <sup>Forces, and</sup> ~~Corps~~ <sup>The</sup> one thing we discussed was the quality of American war planes. General Arnold had recently retruned from that record-breaking trans-Pacific flight and his tour of American war bases in Pacific areas. His inspection <sup>Further</sup> convinced him that our battle planes are right up with any other -- equal or superior.

General Arnold told me of an interesting thing that happens from time to time in his own office in Washington. There he has an extended series of charts and graphs showing the performance of every military aircraft in the world. Each chart, reveals the quality of a plane -- <sup>but does not</sup> ~~and doesn't~~ identify <sup>the</sup> ~~which~~ plane, does not give the nationality of the sky fighting machine in question.

So when critics of American war planes come around, like questioning journalists, General Arnold shows them the charts and graphs, has them study these,

and then pick the type of plane they think to be the  
— on a basis of performance.

best, What kind of aircraft do they commonly select --

its type or Well, the head  
not knowing the nationality? of the plane shown on

of our Air Forces  
the charts? The Commander of the Air Corps told me

that in every case -- such critics pick an American

— from  
plane, That's the way the blind selection works out.

## WAR CRIMINALS

The British Government has one of the most delicate of war problems on its hands - this in connection with the punishment of Nazi war criminals. The ~~dilemma~~ dilemma, with all sorts of intricate perplexities, is thrust upon London by Moscow - the Soviets making a drastic proposal in the war criminal affair.

It all stems from the United Nations' declaration of a few weeks ago - that Hitler and his gang, the Nazi killers of hostages, and <sup>others</sup> ~~those~~ guilty of atrocities, shall be tried and punished <sup>by</sup> ~~at~~ an international court of justice. The British Government affirmed this, and so did President Roosevelt. The declaration was forwarded along to Moscow for Soviet approval. And now that approval is forthcoming - with additions. Moscow says - Yes, and also more. The plan envisaged by Great Britain



and the United States and other United Nations, is to try and punish the Nazi criminals after the war.

To which the Soviets respond - Yes, but why not now?

Moscow in a ~~xxxx~~ measured statement proposes that proceedings begin immediately - with trial and punishment of such Nazi war criminals as have become prisoners of the United Nations.

The Moscow declaration states the following:-

"The Soviet Government," it says, "considers it necessary that any one of the leaders of Fascist Germany who, in the course of the war, has already fallen into the hands of the states fighting against Hitlerite Germany, be brought to trial before a special international tribunal and punished with all the severity of criminal law."

And the Russian demand names one name - Hess.

The notorious Rudolf Hess, who was formerly Hitler's

chief lieutenant, <sup>now</sup> ~~is~~ a prisoner in England. So try and punish him right away, says Russia.

The Soviet note caused an instant buzz in England - arguments pro and con. Today's London bulletin quotes a variety of opinions expressed by Britishers. Some support the Soviet demand completely, and argue that Hess should be brought to trial at once, and ~~be~~ shot without delay. <sup>TP</sup> Others hold that such action would be against international law. <sup>a</sup> ~~The~~ further opinion is that Hess, who landed after a voluntary flight to Scotland, does not come under the category of a prisoner of war and is not entitled to prisoner of war protection. <sup>h</sup> He is a prisoner of state. <sup>TP</sup> Still others <sup>s</sup> reason that the full story of the Hess trip to England has never been made public, and these suggest that Hess may be, 'as one Englishman expressed it: "A plenipotentiary, in which case he is entitled to his immediate release."

The latest most authoritative word is that the British Government ~~would~~<sup>will</sup> consider Hess in the same class with Hitler, Goering, and the other Nazi big shots ↗ they scheduled to be tried after the war.

The same applying to Hess - after the war. Under this contention, the British Government would reject the Soviet demand for the immediate trial and punishment of Hitler's former chief lieutenant.

One argument prominent in the British discussion is that of - retaliation. What would the Nazis do if the trial and punishment were to begin right now, with Hess? The Germans hold no British prisoner of rank as high as the former top flight Nazi. But they have captured a number of high British officers - generals and an air marshal. So would they retaliate on these if Hess were condemned and shot?

The Soviet note, while naming Hess, might apply

to other German prisoners also. It is likely enough that the British may have captured Nazi officers and officials who might be classed in the category of <sup>W</sup>~~war~~ criminals - responsible for Nazi outrages, such as hostage shooting. In other words - German officers who ordered such things. <sup>R</sup> Suppose ~~if~~ <sup>if</sup> those were to be tried and punished - how would the Nazis retaliate in answer to that? Might it not lead to the mutual shooting of prisoners? <sup>R</sup> Already, there has been an exchange of retaliations against prisoners of war - the ~~the~~ Germans and the British shackling a number of the captives they hold, putting prisoners in manacles.

All of which makes it easy to see that the Soviet demand that confronts the British is a difficult dilemma, and <sup>that</sup> it is going to take a lot of delicacy <sup>te</sup>~~and~~ and diplomacy in London to solve.

In Washington this afternoon, Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles expressed American gratification that Soviet Russia agreed<sup>s</sup><sub>^</sub> with the view that Axis war criminals should be punished. But the Acting Secretary declined to comment on the other angle of the Soviet note - that the punishment should begin right away, with Hess.

RUSSIA

war

The news from Russia is brief. Moscow reports that in battered Stalingrad, Red army troops have made a fighting advance in the northwestern ~~xxx~~ section of the city. Enemy Berlin claims that a new Nazi attack has penetrated deeply into the northern section, ~~of the city,~~ and has driven on to the Volga.

## GERMAN JOKE

One specialized type of humor these days is the kind of fun that Germans poke at the <sup>in</sup> Nazis ~~leaders~~ *leaders*. ~~It is~~ *a* little dangerous, that kind of joking. But the police-persecuted-Germans take a chance. Here is the latest Teutonic ~~whiz~~ <sup>wheeze</sup>, as London gets it.

Says one German to another, "What is the largest city in the world?"

The other German says: "London" or "New York."

Whereupon the first German responds: "No, you are wrong. The biggest city in the world is Stalingrad because German soldiers have been marching through the town for weeks and haven't got to the central railroad station yet."

~~XXXXXXXX~~ MALTA

extra

Today Axis planes <sup>again</sup> raided Malta - as they have  
been doing constantly since October Tenth. And once  
more they lost heavily, as they have been doing.

Twelve more enemy planes shot down, and that makes a  
total of ninety-six in the past five days.

The Axis air fleets have <sup>d</sup> been letting Malta  
along for some while, then renewed their assaults, ~~on~~  
~~This new~~ Mediterranean  
~~the Tenth. This new~~ air activity is taken in some  
quarters to presage another drive by Rommel in Egypt.



SELECTIVE SERVICE

This afternoon, the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, okayed legislation to reduce the draft age to eighteen.

The vote of the Committee was <sup>unanimous.</sup> ~~announced, so now on~~  
~~the floor of the House will be speedy action to draft~~  
~~the eighteen and nineteen year olds.~~

DRAFT

The Selective Service Director stated today that it won't be necessary to draft married men with children. Major General Hershey estimated that our seven and a half million man army can be built up completely by calling young men of eighteen and nineteen.

However, the schedule calls for the drafting of men with wives and no children, and of single men who have dependents that are not wives or children. Four hundred thousand of these will be called up in November.

General Hershey made these statements to the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and in testifying before that body, he opposed any suggestion that the eighteen and nineteen year olds should be allowed to complete their schooling before being taken into the army. "We are fighting for our lives," said he. "High schools and colleges, and finishing this and finishing that -- must

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be secondary." Hence, he opposed a draft bill provision that would permit youths to complete their schooling before being drafted.

## RENTS

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The House of Representatives today passed a bill to stabilize rents. This legislation restricts, not only the rent for houses and apartments, but ~~it~~ also the rates charged by hotels and rooming houses.<sup>TP</sup> The Lower House acted with a speed reminiscent of the early days of the New Deal. The bill was passed by unanimous consent - an extraordinary procedure for such an important matter. A single objection would have delayed action, but there was no objection - unanimous.

SAILOR

8 1/2

There is a sailor in the Navy who certainly should be marked down as a great persuader. At <sup>s</sup>Danver, <sub>λ</sub> Electrician James Culp fell in love with Bobbie Yowell, and they decided to get married. She, however, is under age, and her father's consent was necessary. That was difficult. It seemed most unlikely that Papa ~~Bobbie~~ would say, "Bless you, my children."

Sailor Culp, however, went to Bobbie's father and started talking. He talked so eloquently, he not only got Papa's consent, ~~he~~ but also persuaded Papa to join the Navy!

And s-l-u-t-morrow,