

L.T. Sunoco. - Thursday, Aug. 13, 1942

✓
Cannon

AMERICAN PLANES

6
This is a day when the accent of the news is on American air power -- United States warplanes going into action at places as far apart as places can be. It's a long way from the Solomon Islands to the English Channel -- they are on opposite sides of globe. In between is China -- where American bombers were raiding heavily again today. Keeping the Jap air forces in China busy, preventing them from sending reinforcements and planes to the Solomons.

Along the English Channel our war pilots are striking blows against that other enemy -- the Nazi. It was announced in London today that American fighter plane forces have gone into action for ^{the} ~~the~~ first time on the European Front.

Previously, we have had United States bombers joining the R.A.F. In smashing at the minions of Hitler our first bomber raid occurred, appropriately, on the fourth of July. Now our squadrons of fighter planes have swung into battle. In other words, both arms of American air power are collaborating -- fighter, as well as bomber.

7
The debut of our squadrons of small speedy planes consisted of thirty-one separate operations in the past forty-eight hours.

AMERICAN PLANES - 2

U.S. fighters, flying wing to wing with the R.A.F., attacked the Nazis across the Channel in France, and helped to beat off German air raiders attacking England. Each of the thirty-one separate operations was carried ~~off~~ out by a small group. Add them all ~~together~~ together, and they total quite a lot of air activity.

The story from London states that the debut of the American fighter squadron was largely in the nature of training -- giving the pilots experience in sky battle, just a beginning, with plenty more to come --as the American air force based on Great Britain gets going on a full time basis.

This occurs at a time when the tempo of the Air war in western Europe is picking up. American pilots declare that German air strength in France is increasing. "We are running into stiffer opposition now," one flier said today.

8
The explanation is that the Nazis are shifting planes westward from the Russian Front. So the activity of the British Royal Air Force plus the growing power of the American Air command in Britain, may be doing something effective to help the hard-pressed armies of the Soviets.

From Germany we have indications that continual bombing is having effect on German nerves -- such bombing attacks as the one last ~~in~~ night that blasted the city of Mainz. On two nights in succession Mainz was hit hard. ~~There~~ The German population is becoming increasingly affected by what they call -- "Bomb shelter nerves."

This phrase is used by a weekly German medical journal, which states that throughout Naziland there is an increasing tension because of the bombings. An article by a German medical authority refers to the use of sedatives and sleeping drugs as relief from bomb shelter nerves. Medicines are taken to quiet fear and bring drowsy oblivion.

The use of sedatives and sleeping drugs in Germany has reached what the German physician calls "unbearable proportions." He says it is a grave danger. All of which would seem to have an important bearing on the problem of German morale, the people having to realize that -- winning victories, they win bombs.

And in another European sector, American warplanes have ~~since~~ struck a heavy blow -- the Mediterranean. A big force of U.S. bombers

AMERICAN PLANES - 4

attacked Nazi warships in a Greek harbor -- Navarino, and that will bring memories to historically minded persons.

Over a hundred years ago, ^a big naval battle was fought at Navarino^{no} -- a clash at sea that was decisive in winning Greek ~~indepen~~ independence. British and French warships destroyed a Turkish fleet, and soon afterward Greece was relieved of the oppression of the Turk. Now Greece needs to be freed from still another oppressor, the Nazi. And today we see American bombers in action at Navarino.

Those bombers of ours had a magnificent target to shoot at --- three Axis warships ^omoored close together at the docks of Navarino. ~~Only~~ Only one escaped being hit. Three were blasted. On one cruiser two direct bomb hits were scored, ~~t~~ and there was a big explosion aboard.

And that rounds up quite a picture of American air power in action. The Solomon Islands, China, the Mediterranean, the English Channel -- those names paint the picture of American air action halfway round the world.

SOLOMONS

Tonight's late navy bulletin states merely this:- "Operations are continuing in the Solomon Islands area. There is nothing to report from other areas," it says. So the last official ~~word~~ word today ^{just} ~~merely~~ tells us that the great battle of the Solomon Islands is still going on --- operations continuing. This -- on the seventh day, a prolonged clash of war.

From other sources we have -- optimism. This derives from several specific facts. One -- the Marines battling against the Japs have been reinforced. "Strongly reinforced", says a dispatch from Australia. And that means all the encouragement in the world. -- ~~a~~ new military forces landed to augment the ~~strength~~ strength of the marines battling on those far off islands.

Another point is this -- the marines are reported to have improved their positions, ~~have~~ gained more ground. The word from Australia is that on the island of ~~Thig~~ Tulagi the American forces seem to have broken the backbone of enemy resistance -- the Japs driven out of many positions in hand to hand combat. The Japs have now lost control of Tulagi Harbor -- which is the all-important ~~a~~ thing about the island, a possible naval base.

However, we are warned that the Japs are on Tulagi in strong forces, and have dug in on high rocky ground. "To eject the enemy will take time," states a British commentator in Australia.

Still another point of optimism is that the marines may now be on four islands of the Solomon group -- three at least.

Stories from Australia put a focus of attention on ^{the} ~~a new~~ name -- Guadalcanal, ^{island} ~~this island is~~ the biggest in the Solomons, and has craggy mountains going up to eight thousand feet. The north coast, however, has an area about forty miles long and four to ten miles wide, ^{de,} which is comparatively flat. In other words, suitable for airdromes, ^{ing} ~~and this~~ indicated air bases there. And now we want to take the island, and have the air base advantage.

Guadalcanal is described as no South Sea ~~Rxxx~~ paradise. It is economically poor -- producing copra mostly, that typical South Sea coconut product. Its only lines of communication are wagon trails winding among coconut plantations. The weather is not too bad, but the place is full of malaria and dysentery.

Meaning -- that the marines will need the ~~xxxx~~ services of their medical corps. →

Which, by the way, is first rate.

One good thing about Guadalcanal is its population --

consisting mostly of about twenty thousand melanesians. These particular fierce looking ex-cannibals, ~~fussy-wussy natives~~ have been christianized. And they can be

counted on to help the marines against the Japs;-- so say

Missionaries in Australia. The black Melanesians are not

equipped for mechanized battle, but they are formidable warriors

of ancient South Sea reputation.

Meanwhile, General MacArthur's bomber squadrons, based on Australia, continue their incessant blows against the Jap lines of communications -- hitting hard at ~~the~~ enemy bases and ships, so as to impede Jap reinforcements bound for the Solomons.

MEDITERRANEAN

The Axis today went into a spasm of victory claims pertaining to a big convoy battle in the Mediterranean, and their list of ships damaged includes an American aircraft carrier -- the Wasp. They maintain that they hit the Wasp and did much injury to that great warship.

The enemy account states that a convoy from Gibraltar tried to get through with reinforcements for Egypt. A huge convoy -- consisting of twenty merchant ships, three battleships, four aircraft carriers and many cruisers and destroyers, forty-six vessels in all. This was attacked by warplanes and surface craft, and a great sea and air battle was on. The Axis insists that most of the convoy was driven back to Gibraltar, with some ships trying to reach Malta.

The Germans issue a list of ^{they} ships claimed to have sunk or damaged. They say they sent to the bottom nine merchant ~~be~~ vessels and the British aircraft carrier Eagle. London has already conceded the loss of the Eagle -- an old carrier.

54
The Germans claim of damage included three cruisers and two carriers -- one the British Furious and the other our own Wasp.

That's the American ship that some while ago accomplished an exploit of war by running the Meditterreanean Gaultlet and delivering aircraft to Malta.

At the other end of the Axis the Italians give their own imposing list -- which is quite different from the German account. Rome claims the sinking of two United Nations cruisers, one destroyer and six merchant vessels. It is not any too clear, but it might be that Berlin means to announce the damage done by the Germans, while the Italians confine themselves to their own accomplishments. Anyway, it all adds up to a veritable orgy of claims -- and lacks confirmation.

Here's something late. London has just stated that the Axis claims are inaccurate and no reliance ~~should~~ should be placed on them.

BRITISH GENERAL

5
: London today ~~gives~~ gives an ~~official~~ official account of the death of the British tank expert -- Lieutenant General William Henry Ewart Gott. The London announcement serves to put a quietus on a melodramatic story circulated by the Axis enemy.

On Tuesday, London announced the loss of General Gott, and it was supposed to be in an accident. The Axis promptly hopped on that and broadcast a yarn to the effect that the General had been killed by a soldier from India. This account told of an Indian non-commissioned officer serving with the British Army in Egypt, ^{an} ~~and~~ Indian with nationalist sympathies -- a believer in Gandhi. ^{that} When Gandhi and his fellow seditionists were arrested, this Indian non-com was enraged, And in revenge -- he shot General Gott.

^{Nazi} ^{cooked up by Goebbels,}
That bit of [^]melodrama [^]is controverted officially today by

the news that General Gott was killed in air battle traveling through the sky on the Egyptian Front, his plane ~~was~~ shot down by enemy aircraft.

RUSSIA

There is little late news from Russia -- rather an ominous lack of information from the Soviet Nazi battlefields. Moscow tells us that the German advance has slowed down everywhere save in one sector -- a vital sector. In the Caucasus, the Panzer Forces are pushing on in the sector where they made their farthest advance toward the Caspian Sea. Berlin claims the capture of the ^{town of} ~~city called~~ El Sta -- only a hundred and forty miles from the coast of the Caspian. If they have got that far, it means that they are halfway across the Caucasus.

Moscow tells of little change in ~~front~~ front of ^{near} Stalingrad -- some advance by the Northern Nazi ^{pincer} ~~XXXXX~~ trying to close around the city. But, on the other hand the Red Army score a success against the southern claw of the Stalingrad pincer. Moscow tends to picture this comparative quiet as the lull before another storm. The Germans are said to be bringing up enormous reinforcements an immense massing of men and machinery. For a drive of colossal violence against the industrial city on the Volga.

INDIA

7
Tonight's news from India is similar to that of
last night - conditions continue to grow more quiet. The
surge of violence is dying out. Today's news tells of outbreaks
at various places. At Poona, for example, troops fired on a
crowd that was attacking telegraph communications. There was
a riotous ~~disturb~~ disturbance at Allahabad, and there the police
arrested the ^Sdister of the important Nationalist leader -
Jawaharlal
Pandit [^]Nehru, second in importance to Gandhi. Other incidents
are reported, but in general the violence of Gandhi's non-
violence seems to be spending itself.

Bombay issues a casualty list which shows that
seventy persons have been killed thus far in the clashes between
the nationalists and the British Indian police. And Bombay
states that a great deal of damage was done at various
places.

ADD INDIA

I have some late word that the rioting in India is
far less ^{even} than the British authorities had expected. ^{That} The British
Indian police were able in all cases to cope with the situation,
and have not had to call upon the military forces for aid. And,
still more important, the disturbances did not spread to Eastern
India, the Calcutta area, where the Indian war industries are
located. So the war effort was not impeded. This -- because of
the prompt repressive measures taken by the British Indian
Government.

HOSTAGES

A savage story, only ^{too} ~~two~~ familiar now, comes from Holland. The Nazis are holding between one thousand and fifteen hundred people as hostages, and threaten executions unless the wreckers of ^a German troop train are found. The train was wrecked by anti-Nazis, and it was a disaster. Hitherto, the Germans have refrained from the reprisal of killing hostages in Holland, but now they threaten to do in that ~~country~~ country what they have done in others - shoot innocent people unless patriotic terrorists are turned over to them.

8 1/2

And, We hear of a Nazi railroad disaster in northern France. This one sounds like an accident. A troop train crashed ^{ing into} ~~into a collision with~~ a train loaded with explosive fuel. This caught fire, and caused a nearby ammunition train to blow up, killing many soldiers aboard the troop train.

9