

# War Has Gone From "Guadal"

Editor's Note: Raymond Clapper, before setting out on the Guadalcanal mission, took time to see his wife, who, he said, was a few columns in advance. Last Jan. 1, upon leaving the country for the Pacific, he had written that "some people in Washington feel there is not sufficient awareness at home of how much our men are doing and in what a living hell they must sometimes do it." His mission was to help increase that awareness. Hence we feel that he would want us to print, posthumously, these columns written some days ago.

By Raymond Clapper

THE evening after Guadalcanal, I sat on a front porch with Maj. Gen. Maxwell Murray, commander of the South Pacific forward area, right on the spot where the first Marines landed on Guadalcanal.

No longer is there any war here, for this is far to the rear. Guadalcanal is just a big supply dump. Yet it is not quite peaceful and serene. Most battlefields become when the war moves on and nature takes over. This was a stormy night, and the wind lashed the surf up onto the little pit in front of General Murray's quarters. The rain blew in through the screened sides of his native thatched hut.

I wondered how the Marines ever landed here, but that was in August, in the dry season. Now it is raining every day since Christmas, as the first sailor I talked with said. I have found it depressing even the short time I have been on the island.

Guadalcanal has become a kind of shrine for the Pacific war in the minds of the American people, as it was here we won the decisive battle with the Japanese. It stopped their advance and marked the beginning of our slow march toward Tokyo.

Nobody will ever live happily on this place. It is not unpleasant to be here, but it is not pleasant to be away from the front. Some spots in our military developments, which stretch for miles or more miles along the coast, are as neat and attractive as an outdoor summer colony, with neat lawns, palm trees, and a few small buildings. But it is not pleasant to be away from the front.

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## Pattersons Hear From Son In Japan

Broadest broadcast from Japan, H. H. Patterson, Jr., U. S. Army, captured when the Japanese captured the island of Iwo Jima, told his parents, H. H. Patterson, Jr., U. S. Army, and his wife, Mrs. H. H. Patterson, Jr., U. S. Army, that he was still alive and well.

The broadcast was intercepted by American military radio intercept stations and the text of H. H. Patterson's broadcast was broadcast to his parents in Washington, D. C., and to his wife in New York City.

OTHERS IN PRISON. Other North Carolina Army and Navy officers, also prisoners, when Lt. Patterson broadcasted from Iwo Jima, were in the hands of the Japanese.

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Conscript French Women. ALGERIA. A conscription of French women, another day operation today, with a military band accompanying them, was reported from the front.

Howitzer Gunner, Bored By Firing At Germans, Turns To Solitaire. BY F. H. BOYLE. ON THE FIFTH ARMY FRONT IN ITALY, a howitzer gunner, bored by firing at the Germans, turned to playing solitaire.

He never gets to see them come in with their hands up. It was the same with the other gunners. The mountains didn't seem so high.

When we don't have a firing mission coming up I like to play a little solitaire," said Bartley, "it helps me to get my mind off the war. I don't want to get too close to the front. I don't want to get too close to the front."

He is proud of the record his battery turned out last September. The German line was broken, and the German line was broken.

"Four of our guns threw out a thousand rounds that day," he said. "I don't want to get too close to the front. I don't want to get too close to the front."

Private Frank De Stefano, 31, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was a member of the 101st Airborne Division.

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# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## Reds Close In On Iron Center Of Krivoi Rog

Threaten To Encircle Nazi Bastion Advancing Upon Black Sea Ports

By EDDY GILMORE MOSCOW—(AP)—Russian troops closed in on the Iron Center of Krivoi Rog today from three sides and also advanced in the direction of the Black Sea port of Kherson and Nikolaev after breaking the long and tenacious German defense in the Dnieper Bend at Nikolov.

Hitler at Krivoi Rog may have repeated his more characteristic mistake of Russia—waiting too long before retreating. He lost 15,000 dead and 2,000 captured as well as enormous stores of booty.

The German communiqué reported heavy defensive fighting from Luga in the north to Nikolov in the south, asserting that local infiltrations were sealed off or eliminated.

NO WITHDRAWAL SIGNS. The Germans have large numbers of infantry, tanks and artillery at Krivoi Rog. There is no sign of withdrawal despite the threat of almost certain encirclement. The cable railroad still open to the front center of the Krivoi Rog, a junction 40 miles west of the Nikolov-Kriv line.

Red Star said the line encircled Nazi divisions near Chernyakhovsk and the officers and men in the death parades were being held. The dispatch said soldiers no longer could encourage the men with hopes of escape, because the best landing fields have been taken by the Russians and the others are swamped with German troops.

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UNITED STATES FLAG FLIES OVER ROI ISLAND—From a palm tree trunk on the Roi beach, the American flag flies, symbol of the American victory in capturing the Japanese Marshall Islands airbase. The day after the battling Marines landed, and many of the Leathernecks take a well-earned rest. (AP Wirephoto).

## Attack On Japan From China Talked

Carrier Ranger In Heard After Marauders Pound Isle Victory "Atlantic Wall"

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The USS Ranger, in answer to fictitious Axis claims that she had been sunk by a Nazi submarine, made a daring raid into enemy-dominated waters off Norway to account for destruction of more than 40,000 tons of German shipping, the Navy disclosed today.

The Navy told about the raid in the first report of war activities of this aircraft carrier, which has cruised throughout the Atlantic protecting convoys, carrying planes and ships to the fighting fronts, and playing a leading role in the invasion of North Africa.

The strike into Norway's waters, the Navy said, was carried out last October, six months after Hitler had announced that the Hango had been sunk and had declared the submarine commander, Lt. Otto Von Döber, who was credited with the blow.

SIX VESSELS DESTROYED. "Planes from the carrier, the first ever built specifically for that purpose by the United States Navy, destroyed at least six enemy vessels, including four merchantmen, a tanker and an oil barge, and used other shipping, and then returned safely."

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Has Poor Eyes But His Fists Belong In I-A. BELLEVILLE, Ill.—(AP)—Edwin Taylor's poor eyesight disqualified him for military service, but his fists found their way into the ring. He is now a professional boxer.

They made the mistake of calling him a "draft dodger" and a "slacker." Taylor said. "I decided it was all over when I was drafted. I was drafted into the army."

When the police arrived, two of the soldiers were unconscious on the sidewalk. Another, felled early in the melee, had managed to crawl away.

Taylor, 30-year-old roofer, weighs 160 pounds and is just under six feet tall. One of the soldiers he knocked out was an amateur boxer.

Says War Showing Men College Education Need. BUFFALO, N. Y.—(AP)—The war is making men in the armed forces realize the value of a college education, Lloyd K. Neidinger, dean of Dartmouth College, believes.

Addressing western New York Dartmouth alumni last night at the college's 100th anniversary dinner, Neidinger said that the war was showing men the value of a college education.

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# WARS STEEL CASINO

Final

## Allied Planes Join In Fight On Bridgehead

Seek To Cripple Main Strongpoint Of German Siege Line

By RICHARD G. MASSCO. ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ITALY—(AP)—American troops have occupied about one-fourth of bitterly defended Cassino, and approached the crest of Mt. Cassino in a full-strength assault, front dispatches said today, while in the invasion bridgehead to the west Allied planes struck heavily at the German bastion town of Cisterna.

In pre-dawn darkness Tuesday, U. S. troops opened a full-scale assault on Mt. Cassino, driving at one time within 700 yards of the famous Benedictine Monastery on its summit.

The furious crag-to-crag assault on this hill was co-ordinated with the drive into Cassino itself, where Americans seized several more fortified buildings. Tanks and infantrymen edged forward in the strategic town in bitter struggle.

U. S. Mitchell bombers poured tons of bombs yesterday on Cisterna—a main stronghold of the Axis line around the bridgehead below Rome—and American-British troops in that area struck out in heavy patrol fighting.

The Fifth Army threw some more guns into thunderous artillery fire in the Cassino itself. U. S. riflemen fought up the monastery heights under heavy German artillery and mortar fire from the north, west, and south.

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