

MARINES ENLARGE POSITIONS IN SOLOMONS Boiler Blast Wrecks Seaboard Train Killing Three GERMANS TRY TO GET NEW DRIVE GOING

A News Editorial—Too Little Too Late? Let every American who ever has dis-justly uttered the phrase, "too little, too late," and applied it to the conduct of the war by the democracies, now examine his own vigor and foresightedness. Is it to be multiplied case of too little too late in the drive for scrap metal which is now under- way?

Without minimizing the extraordinary efforts of those who are doing more than their share in getting out the scrap, without belittling the several large and innumerable small quantities of scrap which have been provided, it is axiomatic, we believe, that the success of the undertaking is dependent upon the wholehearted participation of every one of us. Here are the facts:

The steel mills have been running dangerously short of scrap, require a large stockpile to be sure of operating uninterruptedly through the winter months.

There is plenty of scattered scrap; the supply ample for present needs. But until it is placed in channels where it may be processed and converted back into steel, it is not of the slightest aid to the war effort.

The Government has called on the newspapers to get out the scrap in a specified quantity by a certain time, and the newspapers have responded with a campaign that, for extensiveness and intensiveness, has never been matched. But the success of the campaign, which is to say the building of a vast stockpile of scrap, is dependent ultimately upon the people, upon the person, in fine, who is reading these lines.

And if, despite the plentiful supply of scrap and the pressing need for scrap, the people should fail the newspapers and the newspapers fail their Government, would it not show, inevitably, that the "too little too late" characteristic in leadership was only a transmission of apathy from the whole body of the country?

We think it would. We think, also, that unless the people as a whole look to their own assignments in the war, they can have nobody but themselves to blame if the war goes against them. That, we think, is indisputable, and terrifying.

Allies Skirmish With Caps In New Guinea

New Stabs At Volga City Lack Old Vigor Reds Attack on Mozdok Area

By HENRY C. CASSIDY Associated Press War Correspondent MOSCOW—(AP)—Weak-ened but still attacking, the Germans struggled to get a fresh offensive going against Stalingrad today while Red Army troops were reported cutting into several sectors of the Mozdok area by vigorous counter-attacks.

General of the assault upon Stalingrad, after a three-day lull devoted to artillery duels, found both German and Russian soldiers muffled in great coats against the autumn chill.

Tank troops and tanks appeared in the fight. The Russians said their aim of the field of the invaders after a rapid change of front against Stalingrad today while Red Army troops were reported cutting into several sectors of the Mozdok area by vigorous counter-attacks.

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HOME FROM BATTLE—R. J. Foelt, South Carolina lad who counts Charlotte as his home, was on the U. S. Cruiser Quincy, which went down in the Guadalcanal today on furlough, he told a vivid story of the sharp battle with the Jap South Pacific squadron. (News staff photo).

Vivid Account Of Sea Battle Given Sailor From Quincy, Cruiser Sunk In Solomons, Visiting in City

By PEEF MCKNIGHT Charlotte News Staff Writer A vivid account of the sea battle which took place today in the Solomons, in which the U. S. Cruiser Quincy was sunk, was given by R. J. Foelt, a South Carolina lad who counts Charlotte as his home, when he was on the U. S. Cruiser Quincy, which went down in the Guadalcanal today on furlough, he told a vivid story of the sharp battle with the Jap South Pacific squadron. (News staff photo).

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Engine, Six Cars Blown From Tracks Near Hamlet Passengers Escape Unhurt

HAMLET—Two trainmen were known dead and a third believed buried under the wreckage of a Seaboard Air Line passenger train which was wrecked when the locomotive boiler exploded twelve miles north of here at 11:15 A. M. today.

No passengers were believed injured. Seaboard officials announced, but several persons, thought to be working in the baggage and express cars, were being treated in the Hamlet Hospital, although there were no serious injuries to other railroad employees.

SIX CARS SMASHED The news correspondent, Harry Boyd of Rockingham, said that six cars left the tracks with the engine and were completely demolished.

The cars were piled on top of each other. Boyd reported, "and the engine is at the bottom of the heap, half buried in the ground. The only thing left is a pile of splinters and steel."

There were no passengers, only baggage, in the first five cars, Boyd said. The sixth car was a mail car.

PLUNGES INTO FIELD Three hundred feet of track were blown up in the explosion and the engine ploughed from the roadway into a nearby field, turning over on its side.

The dead engineer and fireman are J. A. Robertson, 56, and J. L. Stafford, 51, neither of whom was removed early this afternoon.

Local Seaboard officials said the train was No. 4, a local bound from Hamlet to Raleigh and made up of fifteen cars.

In a report to the Associated Press from Hamlet, James Buchanan and Shelby newspaperman, who was a passenger on the train, said there was some minor trouble ahead.

The side of the track was around the steam engine, so heavy that it looked as if a huge flame thrower had been at work.

Enlarge Their Positions On Guadalcanal Offensive Comes After Navy Reveals 3 Cruisers Lost Two Months Ago

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Navy announced today that United States Marines had succeeded in enlarging their positions on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomon Islands during two days of offensive fighting in which the Japanese had many casualties.

Navy communique No. 148 said: "On Oct. 9. At 08:00 hours the morning Marine Corps aircraft attacked a Japanese force of two light cruisers and four destroyers in the area north of New Georgia Island. A direct hit damaged one of the cruisers and when last seen she was down by the bow. Three of the enemy seaplanes which attempted to fight off our attack were shot down. The second cruiser was also attacked and minor damage was reported.

STRAFE SEAPLANES "By Army and Marine Corps search planes bombed enemy anti-aircraft installations at Rekata Bay and strafe seaplanes on the water. The results of this attack were not known.

"On Oct. 11: Four waves of Japanese bombers with fighter escort totaling about 35 bombers and 20 fighters attempted to bomb our positions at Guadalcanal. Army Navy and Marine Corps fighters intercepted and forced the bombers to drop their loads in an open field. Eight enemy bombers and four Zero fighters were shot down. Two United States fighter planes were lost.

"United States Marines succeeded in extending our perimeter installations at Rekata Bay and strafe seaplanes on the water. The results of this attack were not known.

FR Asks Draft Age Lowering Congressional Hearings on Request For Induction of Youths Planned

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Congressional leaders took President Roosevelt's call for an Army of strong young men to carry the war to the Axis as their cue today for speedy action on legislation to lower the draft age from 21 to 18.

The President, in telling the nation that the Axis must be defeated, would be necessary to lower the minimum age limit for Selective Service to 18.

"We have learned how inevitable that is—and how important to the speeding up of victory," Mr. Roosevelt suggested that legislation might also be needed to speed up the process.

See F. B. ASKS on page 2

WEATHER Occasional light rain continued rather cool. High 65, low 51. Forecast: Partly cloudy with occasional showers. High 65, low 51.

Solemons Disaster—Cruiser Survivors Recall Battle As Hell Of Fire & Twisted Steel

Cartridge Plant Strike Continues

Arrest of 17 Spies at Marseille Reported