# This Week Of The War Showing Progress Of The All Out Effort

In releasing the long-awaited summary of the South Pacific air-sea engagements of the week of January 29-February 4, the Navy made it clear that no large pitched battle took place. What did take place was a series of Japanese air attacks on U. S. shipping, and a much longer and more damaging series of U. S. air attacks on Japanese shipping. There were no actions between heavy forces.

When, late in January, U. S. reconnaissance planes located 30 Jap fleet units, including battleships and aircraft carriers, and reports were received of heavy concentrations of enemy ships and planes in the Solomons area, it looked as though the Japanese were preparing for a decisive battle. As it later turned out, however, the enemy was only trying to evacuate its troops from Guadalcanal and interfere with U. S. landings there.

The Japanese attacks were neither concentrated nor sustained. On January 29-30, enemy planes damaged and sank the heavy cruiser Chicago, but lost in this attack 12 out of 13 planes. On February 1, enemy planes sank a U. S. destroyer. But all through the week, U. S. planes struck back, attacking Japanese shipping whenever and wherever it could be found. And when the totals were added up at the end of the week, the enemy had lost two destroyers sunk, 13 other ships probably sunk or badly damaged, and at least 60 planes. U. S. losses were set at 22 planes and three motor torpedo boats, in addition to the cruiser and destroyer sunk earlier in the week.

Meanwhile our air attacks continue—against Munda Bay, against Kolumbangara, against positions in the Shortland Island area and Bougainville, and against Kiska in the Aleutians. And American submarines, operating in the Pacific and Far East, last week sank five more enemy auxiliaries, probably sank a cruiser, and damaged a cargo vessel.

**Germans Attack In Tunisia**

The attack started at dawn Sunday, February 14, when two German columns moved westward from Faid and Sened in central Tunisia, advancing on Sbeitla and Sidi Bou Zid with tanks, infantry, dive bombers and motorized artillery. This was apparently a drive to expand their corridor along eastern Tunisia—the corridor leading from the Mareth Line in the south to the Tunis-Bizerte triangle in the north.

By the middle of the week the Germans has succeeded in forcing American units to retreat 35 miles from their foremost positions and evacuate three forward flying fields. Gafsa was taken, then Sbeitla, then Feriana, only 14 miles from the Algerian border.

According to Secretary of War Stimson, the attack against our central positions was timed to occur while the British Eighth Army was preparing to press its drive in the south against the Mareth Line and the British First Army on the northwest was mud-bound. Thus the Axis was able to concentrate a large formation of armored troops against the relatively more lightly held and more extended American lines. Indications are, Mr. Stimson said, that the Germans were employing two armored divisions—a force considerably greater than our strength in the area—but although the fighting is continuing, the Germans apparently have been slowed down.

**Army Casualties**

The President had called the battle for North Africa, "one of the major battles of this war", and had warned that it would cost us heavily in casualties. Last week Mr. Stimson told the press that U. S. forces in the current fighting in Tunisia have suffered "substantial casualties" in personnel and equipment, and exclusive of these recent losses, the Army has had 41,858 casualties in the war—3,442 killed 6,509 wounded, 25,684 missing, and 6,123 prisoners of war.

—V—

## Maryland Musings

Growers planning to bridge-graft fruit trees to repair rabbit injury are advised to cut their cion wood from trees now by A. F. Veirheller, extension horticulturist, and store the cions in sand or sawdust in a cool place. Good, vigorous one-year terminals are best, he says. Where trees have been injured by mice at the ground line, it is better to plant several one-year old trees around the tree base and graft them into the tree. It is not practical to attempt to repair mouse damage in trees older than about 10 years, but bridge-grafting is good on trees of any age

—M M—

The average price for the four top grades of white eggs sold by the Westminster Egg Auction in 1942 was 40.67 cents a dozen. This was more than 2 cents a dozen above the New York average price and more than 4 cents a dozen over the Philadelphia average price for eggs of the same grade. The Westminster Egg Auction average price of 39.69 cents a dozen for brown eggs was the second highest yearly price for brown eggs among the eight egg auctions in the Northeast.

—M M—

Removing commercially canned foods from the containers in which they were purchased and recanning them at home is wasteful of food and food values, as well as dangerous, warns Miss Margaret McPheeters, nutrition specialist for the Extension Service. Reheating the foods sufficiently to protect them from spoilage results in a soupy, unpalatable mass with decreased food value, she says.

The causes of most early deaths in livestock include accidents, diseases, parasites, digestive troubles, and exposure to cold and dampness. Improved care and hygiene will remove most of the dangers. A little extra warmth at critical times will save many young animals.

—V—

**Value of Tree**

A fine oak or elm tree in the front yard will sell a house that might otherwise hang on the market for 10 years.

—V—

**Coffee, Tea Consumed**

Sixty-five billion cups of coffee are consumed annually in the United States. That doesn't surprise you. But have you realized that 20,000,000,000 cups of tea are also consumed annually in this country. Tea drinking has increased 13 per cent in 10 years. It is said you make from 150 to 200 cups of strong tea from a pound of tea costing 50 cents.

## Canucks and Yanks Fly Wing to Wing Guarding Alaska

High over the great mountain ranges of Alaska speeds a flight of R.C.A.F. Kittyhawks, ready to meet in the air anything the Japs may send against the shores of this northern outpost of the continent. Each day the aircraft of Canadian and United States forces cover many miles over dangerous mountain country and the lonely waters of the northern Pacific. In the case of a large scale invasion of North America by the Japanese it is probable that these aerial fighters would be out in front to bear the first shock. They have already clashed with strong forces of the Jap and bombed his outposts on a number of occasions.

With their Kittyhawks waiting behind them the eager-birds, a group of Canadian fighter pilots fighting over the Aleutians alongside of American pilots lean over their maps while discussing the day's operations. One Jap fighter plane was bagged recently by Wing Commander Kenneth Boomer of Ottawa.

THE United States and Canada—two nations which have long shown the world an example in how to be peaceful neighbors—are now showing the world how they can fight side by side when that peace is threatened. Symbolic of this close co-operation between the two countries is the U. S.-Canadian air unit now guarding the rocky shores of Alaska.

Already the Yanks and Canucks have had numerous brushes with the Japs in the North Pacific area. First Canadian to bring down a Jap in that part of the world was Wing Commander Ken Boomer, of Ottawa. Some of the Canadians now serving in Alaska are veterans of many bombing raids and dog fights over Europe. Men of the R.C.A.F., most of them graduates of the country's great chain of instructional schools, are now fighting on virtually all of the world's fronts. President Roosevelt recently referred to Canada as "the airdrome of democracy." One and a half billions of dollars will be spent on the British Commonwealth Air Training plan in Canada during the next three years. Canada will provide half of the money and 80 per cent of the air crews to be trained. In the upper photo, a flight of Canadian fighters is shown as it speeds over the towering mountains of Alaska. In the lower photo, a group of Canadian fighter pilots study their maps prior to a routine patrol. The winter fogs and sleet storms of Alaska and the Aleutians have made this section one of the most hazardous operational areas of the war.

**Great Pressure**

Gas pressure is so great in southeastern New Mexico's oil fields that only 4 per cent of the producing wells require pumps.

**Grow Hedges on Farm**

A variety of hedge plants may be grown on farms for fences and protective screens, as well as for ornamental purposes.

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# SOCIAL ITEMS OF STILL POND

Mrs. John Harris of Baltimore was the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ford the past weekend.

Mrs. Wm. Medders was an overnight visitor of her sister, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Harris on Wednesday.

The Still Pond Home-Makers Club held their regular business meeting at the home of Mrs. L. P. Atwell on Friday. Miss Travers presiding. A welcome was given our new president Mrs. L. P. Atwell.

Little Billy Cornelius celebrated his third birthday Sunday, with Cake, candles and all the fixtures that go with a little boy's birthday.

Charles Harper of the U. S. Marines, stationed at the Great Lakes, is off on a 9 day leave and enjoying his time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Harper, also his many friends here. He looks just grand and says, "They are treating me fine."

A good crowd was on hand Monday evening to help us celebrate George Washington's birthday at 8 o'clock the following program was rendered. Reading, Mrs. J. L. Price; Reading, Miss Travers; Reading, Mrs. Wm. Medders; Vocal Solo, Mrs. Geary; Vocoal Solo, Mrs. Besse; Recitations, by Betty Taylor, Howard Harper, Marjorie Harper and Mrs. Kephart. Solo, Alice Mann; Instrumental Solo, Ben Anthony; Sketch Emergency Operation, Doctor-Jack Walters, Nurse-John Harper, Patient-Sonny Jones. and of course a Recitation by Mr. Howard Rasin, who needs no introduction to his audience. He was tops as always with His recitation. A Colored Sermon, "Half-way Doings."

Mrs. Pearl Gosman spent the week with Mrs. Walter Biggers near Millington.

Mrs. John Crane of Baltimore was the house gues of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jewell the past week.

Winner of the blanket for this week from the county-wide club, Miss Evalyn Jamar of Chestertown.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schofield are visiting in Wilmington.

Mrs. Emory Hogans spent the past-week end with her husband at Camp Meade.

Avaition Cadet, Harold W. Joiner and Mrs. Joiner of Albany, Ga., are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Joiner. Harold has been commissioned a Second Lieut. in the Army Air forces at Turner Field, Albany, Ga.

Mrs. Sally Jewell has returned home after spending gsome time with her son Mr. and Mrs. Louis Jewell in Aberdeen, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Medders entertained during the weekend their daughter, Miss Clara Medders of New York. Mrs. W. B. Harris and son W. B. Harris, Jr., Miss Joan Robinson of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Pennington.

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