

Leathernecks Annihilate Japanese In Solomons

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It was good training, because for the past three days there was plenty of bloodshed. The Raiders were out to kill Japs and they killed plenty.

I got in on the fight through a coincidence. I was temporarily aboard a transport en route to my own ship at sea off the Solomons and got to go ashore. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Early in the morning of August 6, with clouds hiding the moon, our transport slipped into Tulagi harbor undetected and our planes swooped down to strafe and bomb the islands while our escorting warships shelled the shore.

We shoved off from our transport and went over to another transport to take aboard some Raiders. They quickly scrambled over the side and took seats in the bottom of the boat. Most of them lit cigarettes and crouched there calmly. There wasn't much talk. Looking back from my post in the bow, all I could see was helmets and shoulders of Marines with their rifles between their knees.

My boat was the first which headed toward Tulagi. We had hoped to make a landing at 7:55 a. m., which was the time the first fell on Pearl Harbor eight months before.

We started to land at the southwest corner of Tulagi, near the hospital, but as we approached machineguns started firing from the hospital windows. This was our first experience with Jap trickery. We purposely had not bombed or shelled the hospital but the Japs were using it. They opened fire but their bullets fell short. We turned away and landed farther up the beach out of range.

As our boat hit the sandy shore the first Marine jumped out. He was a husky fellow with a long black beard which must have taken six months to grow. I don't know whether he was a private or an officer. All the Marines in speaking to each other used first names.

Others kept jumping ashore. They took last long drags on their cigarettes, grasped rifles on tommy guns and plunged into the woods which covered most of Tulagi. After a few seconds we could hear them shouting. They were as cool as could be and obviously knew their jobs.

We went back to the transports and loaded guns and crews and handed them ashore. The Marines were still pouring into the woods and there was intermittent firing. All this time, in fact all day the 7th and 8th, our planes were overhead bombing and strafing in front of the advancing Marines. It was really reassuring to see those planes.

While our boat was going toward the shore we received an air raid alarm and in the distance we saw the splashes of bombs dropping around our transports across the channel off Guadalcanal. I saw two Japanese planes plunge to the sea in flames and I heard that at least 14 were downed.

After we made a few trips we were told to stand by our transport to await the unloading of Marine troops who weren't scheduled to go ashore until the Raiders had the situation well in hand. We were anxious to see what was going on and three times we "accidentally" drifted in close until the Marine commander reprimanded us.

During the afternoon our destroyers went inside the harbor and shelled Tanambogo and Gavutu. In Tanambogo practically the entire island was honeycombed with underground positions built of cement and sheet metal. The Marines had plenty of trouble there.

We transferred to a lighted used for taking tanks ashore and spent that night and the next night aboard. We ate Army field rations which really were delicious. You're supposed to take one hour to eat a can of these rations, but

we gulped them down in five minutes.

During Friday some Japs swam to the wreckage of a four-engined flying boat off Gavutu. Only a wing was above the water with the hull submerged, but somehow the Japs set up a machinegun and started firing our boats approaching Gavutu.

The Marines finally located the source of the firing and silenced it. Saturday we stood by ready to land troops and kept circling while our bigger ships—transports and warships—maneuvered in the big roadstead between Tulagi and Guadalcanal.

At mid-morning we received word Jap bombers were coming, and at 11:30 we saw a dogfight over the channel. Just before noon we saw 23 big bombers coming in from the east over Florida Island. They were flying low—just off the water. Our ships were maneuvering, one off Tulagi, the other off Guadalcanal. The Japs flew right between them.

Our anti-aircraft from all ships opened as soon as the Japs came into range, and the sky was a solid sheet of fire. I saw seven Japs go down. Four of them received direct hits from one of our cruisers.

When hit, the planes became balls of fire, plunged into the water, burned briefly, then sank without a trace. The remaining planes went out of sight, and we learned only one left the area entirely—with its port motor on fire and the fighters on its tail.

A destroyer was hit by bombs Saturday. We learned that on Friday one transport had been set afire by a plane crashing into its deck. We saw the fire Saturday, and it seemed under control then.

We tied up to our transport Saturday night. High winds broke us loose, but we kept near the ship. At 2 a. m. Sunday word passed from the ship "all is well." Then hell broke loose.

Over to the west, toward the channel, there was a sudden rumble of gunfire. Instantly three ships were burning, great blazes of light against the black night.

One ship seemed to explode and looked as if it was lifted right out of the water by the explosion. I saw searchlights briefly illuminating a ship. Then there were big gun flashes both from the ships with the searchlights and from the ship that was being illuminated. We knew it was a fight between Jap and American surface vessels.

It was impossible to tell whether we were winning or losing or what was happening. We heard conflicting reports and three times before sunrise we were lifted aboard the transport, which prepared to leave the area.

At 5:30 a. m. the transport pulled out and we thought we were abandoned. We went over to another transport nearby where we were told the landings would continue as scheduled.

We took supplies aboard and headed inshore. By mistake we landed on Gavutu instead of Tulagi. Marines were walking along the beach only a few feet from us. Frequently one would kneel and fire at some target we couldn't see.

Five Raiders came along the beach and suddenly opened fire with tommyguns at a coconut tree. We thought they'd gone crazy. A few coconuts dropped from the tree. Then a dead Jap fell down, and we decided the Raiders weren't crazy.

Just after daylight one Jap swam over from Tanambogo and climbed ashore about 50 feet from us. He was dressed in pants, undershirt and leggings, carrying two grenades.

He was walking unconcernedly, and we thought he must be a Marine. As he neared a hillside where some other Japs were holed in a cave, he started to run. Some Marines nearby opened up and killed him.

The Marine commanding officer told us we were on the wrong beach and we had just started to shove off for Tulagi when two big Marines, each well over six feet tall, appeared with a diminutive Jap. They were carrying him easily by the arms. They set him down in front of the commanding officer and he suddenly squirmed and ran away. The Marines shot him.

We went over to Tulagi, getting shot at from Tanambogo en route, but the shots fell short. As I had no duties, I walked along the beach while the boat was unloading. Fires were burning everywhere. Tin and wooden buildings were wrecked by our bombs and shells. I went into the government office building on the waterfront. There were Japanese supplies and uniforms lying around and a sign "American Airlines" hanging from the ceiling.

Already the Marines were clearing out debris and patching the roof. One nearby building had been used as a rice storehouse by the Japs. Evidently a bomb had hit it squarely. Rice was scattered everywhere with a few sacks still intact.

We saw plenty of evidence that our attack had been a complete surprise. Some places bowls partially filled with rice and other food were standing on the tables, with chopsticks scattered about. We found some Japanese Saki and beer and champagne cider, and tried them all.

We made 10 trips to the beach during daylight Sunday, and several times I wandered considerable distances around Tulagi. From the beach a path led through a ravine leading from the north to the south side of the island, through hills. The ravine is about 50 yards long, fifteen feet deep and eight feet wide.

Several of our Marines with rifles were lying on their stomachs

American Troops On Maneuvers In Alaska



A practice round has just been fired from a gun during maneuvers by United States troops stationed somewhere in Alaska. Japs still have hold on Aleutians, which could be used as air bases for an attack on the mainland. This is an official U. S. Army Signal Corps photo.—(Central Press).

on top of the ravine. Others were gathering brush which they threw on the bodies of three Japs. They threw matches and lighted the brush. They told me it was to smoke out five other Japs in a cave in the side of the ravine.

While I was watching one Jap stuck a rifle out of the cave and shot.

The bullet hit a Marine in the elbow, missing the bone. Another Marine tapped him on the shoulder and said "dressing station's down there." The Marine got up without a word and walked down. Another Marine took his place at the rifle. Just then a Jap walked out of the cave in front of our eyes and seated himself on the path. He was laughing loudly and a little hysterically. He had a full uniform but no rifle or helmet. Apparently waiting to be killed drove him crazy. He didn't wait much longer.

Our raiders weren't the least bit excited. All they wanted to do was kill Japs. Some of them had been at Midway. While we were on the beach, Marines would talk out of the woods and ask for a smoke. We'd give it and ask how it was going. The most they would say was "okay." Have to go back and get a couple in there." I remember asking one if our losses were heavy. He said "they've killed some of us."

The beach was sprinkled with the bodies of Japs. Most of the Japs were shot through the head. The Japs were apparently veteran troops. They didn't look very young. Some of their uniforms were much like the Marines except different colored leggings and cartridge belts.

The Marines were allowed to carry whatever weapons they chose. All had knives, which they spent the night before the attack sharpening. I remember one boy who must have been a Texan. He had twin bandoliers of cartridges across his chest and another around his waist. Two .45 automatics in open holsters were at his sides, with another in a shoulder holster. A long machete was fastened to his belt. And completing his equipment was—a tommygun.

The Marines told me the Japs spoke good English and used clever tricks. One Jap took the clothes from a dead Marine and started to pass our sentries just at dusk. The Jap slapped a sentry on the back and inquired, "what's doing, kid?" The sentry answered, "never mind what's cooking." Then the Marine shot him.

The first night ashore the Marines occupied a large building but decided to sleep outside, and posted sentries. The next morning they went to reenter the building and were met by machine gun fire. Somehow during the night 14 Japs had got through our lines and into the house. The Marines burned them out.

Japs hid everywhere. I saw one in a tiny hole in a rock. It looked as if he had been born there and grown up to fit the hole. He was dead, sitting cross-legged.

The Marines had a lot of respect for the Japs who wouldn't surrender. Sometimes the Marines yelled, "Surrender, you bastards." The Japs would reply "come and get us."

No doubt about it, the Japs really fought. One Jap colonel cut his throat as he was about to be captured. Another colonel shot himself. They wore ribbons of the Manchurian campaign. Some soldiers had printed money marked "Honan province," and other tokens indicating they were veterans of the China war.

The Japs also carried money printed for the Solomons on blue paper with pictures of palm trees and the words "Japanese government One Shilling."

I talked to one Marine in the woods and asked, "how many have you killed?" He answered, "only ten." The others were killed them left and right."

The Marines let us wander everywhere on the island, but we stopped doing it much when we learned they were using us as bait to trap snipers. Several times a Blue-jacket would walk past a Marine crouching silently by the path. The Blue-jacket would get a few feet past when he would hear shots—one from a sniper aiming at him and the other from the Marine who'd been waiting for the sniper to give away his position.

All the time we were unloading, shooting was going on not far from

Alexandria Again Saved From Rommel's Armies

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power station at Canadia in Crete, scoring direct hits which set fires over the whole dock area. The Americans crippled the power station in their dusk attack yesterday, while accompanying heavy British bombers successfully attacked airfields nearby. All the attacking planes got home safely.

(The Italians claimed that four American Liberators—four-motored Consolidated bombers—were shot down in the raid. Characteristically belittling an action which had not turned out well for the Axis, the Italian communique said ground fighting on the Egyptian front was "of no particular importance.")

The complete success of the Eighth Army under its canny new leadership of Lieut. Gen. B. L. Montgomery and the Near East commander, Gen. Sir Harold Alexander, in dissipating Rommel's latest offensive which died aborning was summed up in a headquarters communique:

"Yesterday in the southern sector the enemy continued his withdrawal westward under strong pressure from our mobile columns and artillery.

"His main concentrations are now again west of our minefields through which he first advanced on the night of August 30-31.

"Since then the enemy forces in the area, consisting of the German Afrika Korps and including the 15th and 21st panzer (tank) divisions and the 90th light division with Italian armored and mobile elements, have suffered severe losses in tanks, vehicles and personnel as a result of the constant pressure of our land and air forces.

"In spite of every effort the enemy failed to penetrate our main defensive system at any point."

Though the threat of all Egypt was eased for the moment by the resoluteness of the Allied stand, there was no disposition at headquarters to underestimate the resilient striking power of the wily desert fox, Rommel. He has been rebuffed before, he has been rattled and encircled, but each time he has been able to turn apparent disaster into brilliant victory.

Alexander's game appeared to be one of destruction of the enemy rather than immediate territorial gain. Thus the ceaseless hammering of the enemy from land guns and bombers and strafing fighters.

Rommel's next move was watched closely, and the British did not rule out the possibility that he might try to cross the scythe-shaped Qattara depression which at points is 440 feet below sea level, and strike out for Cairo, by-passing the great naval base of Alexandria on the lush Delta of the Nile. The Qattara, in the opinion of some, is not impassable at this time of the year but the British guarded the corridors through the shifting salt marshes strongly. The depression at the point of battle lies 35 miles south of the Mediterranean and creates a funnel which limits Rommel in his favorite wide maneuvers.

British patrols continued active in the northern sector, and despite unfavorable weather bombers and fighter bombers continued to harass the retreating enemy in the south, the communique said. Heavy bombers again attacked Tobruk last night.

The latest desert campaign which started just a week ago was marked by some of the heaviest

fighting the Sahara has ever known. The enemy first advanced eight miles through the southern mine fields.

On Wednesday and Thursday he employed the biggest fighter force ever used in the Egyptian theater, and probably the largest bomber force too. At least five times in those two crucial days, swarms of 40 Stuka dive bombers accompanied by 50 fighters made concentrated attacks on Allied positions.

But every time the Allied air forces—Americans, British, South Africans and Australians—soundly thrashed the enemy and routed him in defeat. Only on Friday were Allied losses heavier than those of the Germans, but this was because our forces were much more active over the battle zone.

Some small part of the credit of the Axis defeat was due to a few American-manned tanks which met German armored forces and defeated them.

ROMMEL MISSES TRICK

CAIRO, Sept. 6.—(AP)—This time it was Rommel who did a little under-estimating.

The morning of September 2 when the Axis commander's forces penetrated the British El Alamein mine fields a couple of German officers toting a white flag approached the British line.

The British commander listened in startled amazement while the Nazis told him Allied armor had been smashed, that he was virtually encircled, his position hopeless.

There was a moment or two of embarrassed silence, then peals of British laughter. Rommel's men didn't need any more of an answer—they hot-footed it away in a cloud of desert dust.

AMERICA ALL-OUT FOR WAR OUTPUT

(Continued from Page One)

season and by the travel of students. Military travel was given preference over civilians on all rail and plane lines.

While the National Safety Council in advance estimates predicts a holiday death toll of 400 from traffic fatalities and 1,500 permanently disabled, a tabulation since 6 p. m. Friday showed only 60 killed on the highways up to noon Sunday. In addition, there were only 14 additional violent deaths reported from all other causes.

A plane crash in Colorado brought death to three civilians and five high school students were killed in a Texas car-train crash.

Texas reported the greatest number of traffic deaths with 8. Virginia, with 7, was next and Ohio and Michigan had 6 each.

Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission, in a radio address from Chicago, said, "The free nations of the world are fighting for the only kind of system in which there can be any such thing as free labor."

"So far we have tried to mobilize the manpower of America by voluntary action. And most Americans have responded. But if any Americans hold back the voluntary system is a failure."

LABOR WANTS 5TH GUARANTEE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6.—(AP)—William Green, president of the AFL, said today that in addition to the "four freedoms" enunciated by President Roosevelt, labor would insist upon a fifth guarantee being written into the peace terms after the war:

"The freedom of workers in every land to join free and democratic trade unions of their own choice."

"This is labor's own peace plank and no force on earth can stop us from making it a reality," Green declared in a Labor Day statement.

Philip Murray, president of the CIO, said in his Labor Day message that "Labor today occupies a position of national and world importance greater than ever before in history" and that up to its efforts depend victory or defeat.

"We call this labor's war," he said, "because its great and basic issue is the right of the working and common people everywhere to enjoy liberty, democracy and the opportunity to work out their destiny as free men and women."

Secretary of the Navy Knox and Undersecretary of War Patterson issued a joint statement saying that "In no other country has labor enjoyed so full an opportunity to win its battle of production voluntarily and without coercion" and expressing the hope that "this happy relationship of cooperation between labor and the armed forces may continue as the stresses of the war increase."

Speaking from West Point on the weekly Army Hour Broadcast, Patterson also declared that the holiday this year was "the most critical Labor Day in our history."

"The time is at hand when we must begin to win this war or go down to ruin," he continued. "The Army knows that with the full-hearted support of American labor every minute, it can and it will bring all-out defeat to the enemy."

George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL and member of the War Labor Board, demanded a larger voice for labor in the di-

2 Out Of 89 Villages Taken By Reds Found Intact After Germans

MOSCOW, Sept. 6.—(AP)—Only two out of 89 villages recaptured from the Germans in one district northwest of Moscow were found intact by the Red Army. Tass reported today in an account from a frontline correspondent.

"The rest," he wrote, "literally were razed off the face of the earth. Everything lies bare as if visited by locusts."

In one village the correspondent said an undaunted peasant nailed his street number to a stick and stuck it at the opening of a hole in the ground which he now calls home.

"A field overgrown with yellow,

unknown grass, mounds bristling with nettles, heaps of rubble and smashed glass" were all that remained of one village, he said.

Strictest gasoline rationing in eastern states has been put into effect because of ship sinkings. Formerly, 95 per cent of petroleum products delivered to these states was carried by tankers.

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reaction of war production in an address prepared for the Mutual Broadcasting System.

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MANOR TODAY TUESDAY

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BAILEY 4c All Day Inc. Tax

What A Holiday! Irving Berlin's "HOLIDAY INN" With Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire Shows 11:30 1:26 3:22 5:18 7:14 9:10

CAROLINA LAST DAY!

Cecil B. DeMille's "REAP THE WILD WIND" With 12 Great Stars Shows 12:30 2:33 4:49 7:05 9:25

Mat. 40c; Nite 55c; Chil. 0c Inc. Tax Reg. Adm. Svc. Men

ROYAL 25c All Day Inc. Tax

Saga of the Great Northwest "WHERE OF THE PLAINS" With John Carroll, Ruth Hussey, Bruce Cabot Shows 11:24 1:30 3:30 4:20 6:10 8 9:50

BIJOU LAST DAY!

Gary Cooper, Barbara Stanwyck — In "BALL OF FIRE" Shows 11:25 1:25 3:05 7:10 9:15

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