

American Warships Sink Three Japanese Battleships in Siam

Two Destroyers, Cruiser Victims

Third Destroyer Probably Sunk in Night Battle

SHIPS INTERCEPTED

Vessels Carrying Supplies • Garrison at Villa, Kolombangara Isle

By WILLIAM F. BOWEN
Allied Headquarters in the Southwest Pacific, Sunday, Aug. 8 (AP)—American naval forces in a brilliant four-hour night battle sank a Japanese cruiser and two destroyers and probably sank a third destroyer after intercepting the warships carrying supplies to the enemy garrison at Villa, Kolombangara island.

General MacArthur announced today, The Americans suffered no losses.

The action in the Vella Gulf between Villa Lavella and Kolombangara island was fought about midnight Aug. 6.

Torpedoes and gunfire sent the enemy ships to the bottom to raise the toll of enemy warships lost in the current Solomon offensive to at least 32 and possibly 33 warships.

The new naval triumph following closely on American capture of New Georgia, had the effect of weakening the garrison at the last, Japan's objective, the Solomon pass—Vila which is 17 miles northwest of Vila.

It is eight miles across the Kula Gulf from another Japanese enemy garrison at Balakoro harbor, New Georgia.

From Vila, American forces pushed north to seize the enemy forces besieging the Japanese at Balakoro. This move is being made "without encountering opposition," today's communique said.

Saturday afternoon, a force of 30 Japanese divers and swimmers attacked American positions on and adjacent to Rendova island, which is eight miles from Vila.

The only casualties to our forces were in a field hospital. Anti-aircraft guns shot down three Japanese dive bombers and three Zeros were shot down.

Two Destroyers—See Page 2

CHEMICAL BASTARDY INJURES YOUTH

William A. Creager, Student at Bluefield College, Injured While Conducting Experiment in Rooms

William A. Creager, Jr., a senior student in chemistry at Bluefield College, was seriously injured yesterday afternoon when a chemical formula blew up in his face as he was experimenting in his room at the dormitory.

At first report it was said that the youth had lost his left eye, but later last night the physician, Dr. Charles T. Clark, Jr., said from present indications the youth would not lose his eye.

He added that it was possible for complications to arise in conditions of this sort, however.

Creager was a chemical engineering student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va., last year, and is taking a summer course at the college. He had mixed acid and nitrate and a gas, the name of which could not be learned, had leaked out and had formed clouds of powder to make an explosion.

He had been bubbling the gas through the silver nitrate making the lump powder and was blowing the lumps up in paper when they suddenly exploded.

He was taken to St. Luke's hospital where he was treated for a fractured skull and a broken jaw. Dr. Clark, who also gave treatment at Bluefield, said the youth remained a patient there.

His eyes, his ears, his nose, his mouth and his face were burned by the explosion, which was heard from the college dormitory to the opposite end of college row.

There was no other damage except for the burning of a few papers on the desk. The youth is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Creager, who arrived last night to be with their son.

Brazilian Ship Is Torpedoed; 78 Missing

Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 7 (AP)—The 8,330-ton Brazilian steamer Bago was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Brazil, Aug. 6, off the coast of Recife state, and at least 78 persons, including women and children passengers, are missing. It was carried to night.

Twenty-one of the 128 passengers aboard and 37 crewmen were missing.

The Bago, largest Brazilian mercantile ship, carried a crew of 107.

The attack occurred at 9 p. m. July 31, the ship being hit by one torpedo. It sank at a depth of 102 fathoms.

Twenty-seven of the passengers were rescued by the ship's crew. That left 49 crew members and 15 passengers who were rescued by the ship's crew.

Some of the missing are two women and six children including a young child. The captain of the Bago, who according to reports was a lieutenant, was missing.

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Capture of Prisoners by Americans

Red Shock Troops Plunge Deeper Into The Ukraine

Russians Stage Wide Flanking Movement To Throttle Kharkov Defense; Cut Another Point On Vital Railway

London, Aug. 7 (AP)—Red army shock troops, plunging deeper into the Ukraine, today captured Kharkov, a vital rail center, and a special Soviet commando unit captured another point on the Kharkov-Berlin railway, while directly north of Kharkov Soviet units pushed down the Dnieper river to Zolochiv within 25 miles of the city.

Berlin announced a second thrust to the southwest, and in a broadcast a report that a big force of the Red army, 25 miles to the southeast, had taken the city of Zolochiv, a big initial gain. This position was believed to be within 10 miles of the city.

Brayden Menard
Above the Ukraine, Bryansk was attacked by Soviet troops, and a force of seven miles was made during the day. The Soviet forces were pushing westward, and the Red army was capturing the city.

London, Aug. 7 (AP)—The Berlin radio broadcast today a Tokyo dispatch saying that a Local Civil Guard force of the U. S. Army, who "stayed behind after the fall of the Philippines to lead guerrillas," had been captured by the Japanese.

The broadcast said that strong was arrested and his body was a plot of the life of the commander of the Philippines, who was captured by the Japanese.

London, Aug. 7 (AP)—The Berlin radio broadcast today a Tokyo dispatch saying that a Local Civil Guard force of the U. S. Army, who "stayed behind after the fall of the Philippines to lead guerrillas," had been captured by the Japanese.

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FORECAST
WEST VIRGINIA — Moderately Warm Sunday afternoon

5 CENTS 10 CENTS SUNDAY 15 CENTS

Blazing Attacks Leave Strains of Messina Waters Cut, Wreckage

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