

ALLIES WRECK 40 JAP BARGES

American Warships Blast Evacuation Fleet in Solomons.

By DON CASWELL

United Press Staff Correspondent
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Southwest Pacific, Oct. 5.—Americans can warships have wrecked a big Japanese barge fleet attempting to evacuate troops from the central Solomons, sinking 40 barges and several escorting gunboats, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters announced today.

The action, fought out under cover of darkness Friday and Saturday nights in the narrow waters off Kolombangara Island at a cost of one American vessel damaged, appeared to foreshadow the collapse of organized Japanese resistance in the central Solomons.

A spokesman at MacArthur's headquarters indicated that the Japanese were trying to withdraw their garrison from Kolombangara, now encircled by American island positions, to Bougainville, more than 100 miles to the northwest.

Surface units of Adm. William F. Halsey's South Pacific command intercepted and smashed the flotilla, despite repeated attacks by Japanese planes attempting to cover the barge.

One escorting Japanese gunboat was sent to the bottom and a number of others were damaged, while the enemy planes hit one U. S. naval unit, causing light casualties.

A lone Corsair raided enemy barge hideouts on Kolombangara Friday morning, hours before the surface action, strafing and burning two barges.

There was no immediate indication as to whether the big enemy flotilla was caught on the way into Kolombangara or while actually withdrawing troops from the island. If the barges were fully laden with troops, it was believed the enemy casualties might be high, possibly several thousand men.

PROSECUTOR NAMED FOR 7TH CIRCUIT

Governor Schricker today appointed Willard M. Dean, Aurora lawyer, as prosecuting attorney of the seventh judicial circuit which includes Dearborn and Ohio counties.

Mr. Dean succeeds Lester G. Baker, Lawrenceburg, who has entered the army. Both Mr. Dean and Mr. Baker are Democrats.

CLAIMS WAR MAKES U. S. SAFETY MINDED

CHICAGO, Oct. 5 (U. P.)—Col.

John Stilwell, president of the national safety council, said today that the United States at war has become the most safety-conscious nation in the world, preventing the loss of millions of civilian lives through accidents.

Stilwell, opening the council's annual meeting, reported that the organization has co-operated extensively with the armed forces, the government and industry to cut down accidents.

"The all-accident death toll for the nation is down 7 per cent," he said, "partly because, working with every person in the country, we have gained the technical knowledge and skills to deal effectively with the accident problem."

"The rising rate of accidental deaths among workers has been entirely halted, in spite of a 17 per cent increase in man hours worked and new personnel," he said.

"Traffic deaths are down 41 per cent, due to increased public cooperation with wartime restriction."

Daniel Brown, Seaman 2-c, Reported Missing in Action

(Continued from Page One)

her son was missing on Sept. 22 and received a letter yesterday from him. The letter had been written shortly before he was reported missing.

Charles E. Vance, seaman 1-c, also was included on today's missing list. He is the son of Mrs. Mary L. Vance, Ft. Wayne.

Prisoner

T. SGT. ROBERT STAHLHUT, who was reported missing in action over Germany Sept. 6, is a prisoner of the German government.

A war department telegram Sunday notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stahlhut, 2511 E. Raymond st., of the "long-awaited news."

Aerial engineer and top turret gunner with the army air forces in England, T. Sgt. Stahlhut was commanded for his meritorious action in a letter received by his parents just a few days ago.

"Although you failed to return from our last mission over Germany on Sept. 6, 1943, I take great pleasure in being able to commend you for your meritorious achievement on that date," Col. Budd J. Pease, air force commander, said in the commendation. "Your performance of duty on that important mission was superior.

"In spite of heavy fighter and flack opposition, you truly accomplished your duty as engineer," he added. "By your skillful airmanship and courage you enabled our group and wings to deal a vital blow to the enemy. It is through such acts that we are able to continuously press home our blows to the enemy."

The courage, coolness and skill displayed by you reflects great credit upon yourself, the 384th bombardment group, the army air forces and the armed forces of the United States. I as well as the whole 384th bombardment group are proud of you for your gallant action and we sincerely hope you are safe and we shall be able to again fly with you wing to wing."

PVT. NORMAN L. SHOOK JR., 19-year-old marine from Speed-

way City, was among eight men burned fatally in a two-day brush and timber fire, beginning Saturday, over 6000 acres southeast of San Diego, Cal.

The only other Indiana victim was Pfc. Lowell Rixford Whetzel, husband of Mrs. Frances Whetzel, Anderson.

Pvt. N. Shook

awarded the distinguished flying cross by President Roosevelt recently for heroism in the Solomon Islands.

The 36-year-old commander was cited for courageous leadership against Japanese forces. As leader of a scouting squadron attached to an aircraft carrier, Cmdr. Campbell directed daring attacks, blasting enemy shore installations and causing extremely heavy damage and severe personnel losses.

FIRST SGT. RICHARD E. COOLEY, Kokomo, has been awarded the legion of merit, the war department announced today.

The citation stated that Sgt. Cooley was appointed a first sergeant March 11, 1941, at the age of 19, after only six months of service.

HONORED

THE PURPLE HEART, awarded posthumously to Pfc. Albert A. Armel for meritorious action and wounds resulting in his death July 16 in Sicily, was received yesterday by his mother, Mrs. Myrtle Armel, 1219 Laurel st.

Pfc. Armel was a member of the military police division of the armored command and had been in the army since Feb. 12, 1942. He was a graduate of Tech high school.

Surviving besides his mother is a sister, Mrs. Irene Ganderding of Indianapolis.

CMDR. NORWOOD A. CAMPBELL of West Lafayette was

L. S. AYRES & COMPANY

Better Care Means Longer Wear

Care and Repair of Electric Cords

- Always keep electric cords dry—never touch or disconnect them with wet hands.
- Pull the plug, not the cord, when you disconnect your iron or other electrical equipment.
- Coil the cord loosely when not in use. Hang, preferably, over a pair of wood curtain brackets to avoid sharp bends or kinks which may break the thin wires in the cord's spine, and to save fraying of the covering at the point of friction.
- If the rubber or fabric covering wears off near the end of the cord, disconnect the worn end from the plug or cap—cut off the worn part and reconnection.
- If the outer rubber or fabric covering becomes damaged in the center of the cord, repair first by wrapping with electrician's tape, then wrap the bundles together with friction tape.

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