

# US Battle Wagon Gets Baptism of Fire At Savo Island's '50 Minutes of Hell'

NEW YORK, April 29—(AP)—The "Big Bastard," a United States battleship, got her nickname in the south Pacific while protecting American carriers from aerial attack.

She did the job so well that a carrier admiral radioed to his planes: "Stay away from that big bastard. When she gets through shooting down Japs, she'll use you for target practice." And so the ship has been known ever since, and her men wouldn't swap the nickname for a general citation.

This is the story of the ship's first surface action, pieced together from accounts of the ship's crew, by Robert L. Schwartz, yeoman second class and navy correspondent for Yank, the army weekly.

The action — part of what's known in naval annals as the fifth battle of the Solomons—began at dusk on Nov. 14, 1942. A task force consisting of the Big Bastard and several other battleships and destroyers had cut away from its carrier for a little show of its own. And at Savo Island, just north of Guadalcanal, it found a nest of hiding Jap ships.

"Hodgen Othella Patrick, yeoman first class, talker on the highest lookout post, remembers seeing the Jap ships come up. He saw the first salvo leave the flagship up ahead. His next recollection is of being thrown against a bulkhead and finding somebody's arm, without a body across his face.

"I'm dead," he thought. "Here I am dead. This is what it's like to be dead." But the earthly touch of shrapnel in his knee and hip convinced him he was still alive. The two officers lay dead. Seven enlisted men were still. Four wounded looked at Patrick, not knowing what to do next.

"Patrick ordered the two least wounded to go below and then put tourniquets on the other two, using their own belts. He applied the same treatment to his own knee... then remembered to loosen all three every 15 minutes throughout the night. He hunted a long time for morphine and divided it with the others. As he was about to take his share of the sedative he noticed that several of the men he had thought dead were stirring... he divided his

share among them. He didn't feel heroic. He didn't even think... Patrick was the only enlisted man of the crew who was recommended for a navy cross.

"Rufus Mathewson, yeoman second class, took his post as a talker in the conning tower... shortly after midnight the loudspeaker carried a cold steady voice from plot room. 'Target 20,000 yards, bearing 240 degrees... target 19,800 yards, bearing 241 degrees...'

"There was a terrific explosion up ahead. Mathewson dashed to one of the slits and felt his stomach drop as he saw a battleship ahead silhouetted by flame.

"From over the phone came the admiral's voice: 'Fire when ready.' Shells screamed out. The captain and the navigator were jarred away from the scopes, but voices came in over the phone.

"'Right on!'"

"'The damned thing has disappeared!'"

"'Looked like a cruiser.'"

"'That was a battleship!'"

In rapid succession Mathewson heard a loud crash, a rolling explosion, and then the searing rattle of metal fragments as they crashed into cables, guns and superstructure. The ship shrugged, leaped back into a volley of 6 and 8-inch shells that raked through the sky control tower, topmast position on the ship...

Her range finders set on the enemy fire, "Big B" swung her heavies into play, sunk her first target and blew up her second. Meanwhile Jap guns exploded three US destroyers. The third

target was a Kongo class battleship that passed the starboard beam of Big B and was cut in half by a salvo from her No. 8 turret aft. Her secondary batteries continued to pour fire into eight Jap destroyers hiding in a cove...

"One of the lookouts kept repeating in a low voice: 'Lord, I'm scared. Nobody has any idea how scared I am. How could anybody be this scared.' He said that over and over. Nobody thought it strange.

There was a lull then. The ship steamed alone in a circle of burning ships. The admiral's vessel had disappeared in the darkness. Into the narrowest part of the cove came four more enemy ships. The second one threw searchlights on the Big B and she opened fire. From her rear came supporting salvos, indicating that the admiral's ship was still in the fight.

The assistance was welcome for Big B was being pounded heavily by the guns of three hard-punching Jap warships. Six and 8-inch shells ripped through the top of her superstructure, then cut into her secondaries. Her deck was riddled with shrapnel. Fire broke out in the tattered superstructure. Wreckage lay everywhere...

Big B kept right on rolling. She opened her main battery

## Did Camouflage Fool You?



In demolition practice, U. S. engineers in Panama resort to camouflage to prevent the "enemy" from detecting them. Corp. Jerrold Tucker of Holland, Mich., has done a good job, for he blends in with the landscape perfectly.

on the enemy line. Her secondaries chattered continuously and soon a tongue of fire poked up at the sky from each of the enemy ships. Then the battleship's crew knew she had won. During the night the US ships ran completely around the island and wiped out an enemy fleet in less than 50 minutes. Most of the men said later that they thought they had been running the channel at least half the night...

"Below decks in engine control room was Chief Yeoman Check reading an old issue of Reader's

Digest. The huge panel of gauges in front of him was functioning perfectly. The engine was at top speed, the boilers were maintaining a magnificent head of steam, and the blowers were keeping the room quite cool and comfortable. When a command came through, Cheek carried it out, then returned to his reading.

"It was morning when Cheek walked onto the deck and saw the destruction. Then he realized, for the first time, how many shells had ripped into the ship. "He couldn't sleep for three days."

## County Gear Pooling Plan Is Approved

Pooling of surplus county, city and state highway or similar equipment, with the state highway department serving as a clearing house, was approved at a meeting of county courts of Marion, Linn, Benton, Polk and Lincoln counties Thursday at the Marion county court house.

Such an agreement was recommended by the executive committee of the state association, subject to approval by various district meetings throughout the state. Negotiations for use of the equipment would center between any county desiring the equipment and the state highway commission.

Secretary Phipps pointed out that a number of counties had reported being harassed by the Office of Price Administration to withdraw restrictions on logging trucks as a war measure. "Some counties replied," Phipps said, "that they were anxious to assist in the war effort and would cooperate with the logging operators providing the war production board would permit them to receive needed equipment to keep their trucks in repair."

Other speakers pointed out that many of the highways are being damaged by overloaded trucks and that some of them will have to be reconstructed at the close of the war.

Judge E. L. Pope, Clackamas county, while in Washington, DC, to attend a meeting pertaining to the Oregon land grant counties,

will confer with officials in hope that some of the equipment purchase restrictions may be eliminated.

Most of Thursday afternoon was devoted to a discussion of a number of new laws enacted at the 1943 legislative session. One of these laws authorizes the operation of trucks with a combined weight and load greater than allowed prior to the 1943 legislation. Truck operators seeking this concession must obtain a permit from the state highway commission.

The permit would terminate at the close of the war.

## Farm Bulletin Says Crops Satisfactory

PORTLAND, April 29—(AP)—The department of commerce's weekly farm-weather bulletin reported Oregon farm work progressed satisfactorily in general last week in spite of cold weather.

Some damage to fruit and tender vegetables was reported. Winter grain and peas show good growth and early sown spring grain is germinating well. Some sugar beets are ready for thinning.

For a Healthier Scalp

**Wildroot Hair Tonic**

Reg. 35c

3 1/2-oz. Size **31c**

Keeps the hair & scalp healthy and clean. Leaves the hair shining and clean.

Free Meyer Drug Section

In the New Victory Package

New

**Listerine Toothpowd.**

or

**T'pastes (in tube)**

**33c Ea.**

Cleansing and refreshing tooth paste or tooth powder to keep your teeth shining & clean.

Free Meyer Drug Section

60c Value Caldwell's Syrup of Pepsin **47c**

Take a Vitamin a Day

**Vitamin Plus Tablets**

30 Day Supply **\$2.69**

Vitamins give you added energy and health.

Free Meyer Drug Section

For Simple Aches and Pains

**Dr. Miles Anti Pain Pills**

For an aid in the relief of aches and pains **83c**

due to simple causes.

Free Meyer Drug Section

Soft and Absorbent

**NORTHERN TISSUE**

Reg. 10c Value

**Northern Tissue 3 Rolls for 21c**

For Added Energy and Health

Free Meyer

**Vitamin A Capsules**

Bottle of 100 **\$1.98**

Helps maintain resistance to infection, promotes growth, prevents dry skin and scalp, prevents night blindness.

Free Meyer Drug Section

No. 11-25		No. 21-37	
Synopsis of Annual Statement of the Century Insurance Company, Ltd., of Edinburgh, Scotland, on the thirty-first day of December, 1942, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:		Synopsis of Annual Statement of the National Casualty Company of Detroit, in the State of Michigan, on the thirty-first day of December, 1942, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law:	
Statutory Deposit	\$ 500,000.00	Amount of capital stock paid up	\$1,000,000.00
Income		Income	
Net premiums received during the year	\$4,069,228.87	Net premiums received during the year	\$4,800,855.78
Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	150,062.40	Interest, dividends and rents received during the year	139,905.14
Income from other sources received during the year	503,234.62	Income from other sources received during the year	16,893.88
Total income	\$4,731,145.67	Total income	\$4,957,654.80
Disbursements		Disbursements	
Net losses paid during the year including adjustment expenses	\$2,809,820.77	Net losses paid during the year including adjustment expenses	\$2,756,413.17
Commissions and salaries paid during the year	1,035,281.87	Commissions and salaries paid during the year	1,639,281.64
Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	61,579.71	Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year	160,208.43
Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	None	Dividends paid on capital stock during the year	100,000.00
Amount of all other expenditures	95,978.40	Amount of all other expenditures	460,542.35
Total expenditures	\$4,002,700.55	Total expenditures	\$4,116,845.59
Admitted Assets (market value)	None	Value of real estate owned (market value)	8,036.53
Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	None	Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc.	None
Value of bonds owned (amortized)	\$1,370,554.95	Value of bonds owned (amortized)	3,595,942.07
Value of stocks owned (market value)	1,876,602.01	Value of stocks owned (market value)	694,720.00
Cash in banks and on hand	1,190,695.70	Cash in banks and on hand	705,449.10
Premiums in course of collection written since September 30, 1942	355,379.11	Premiums in course of collection written since September 30, 1942	705,293.03
Interest and rents due and accrued	10,972.26	Interest and rents due and accrued	22,090.56
Other assets (net)	86,068.20	Other assets (net)	209,242.18
Total admitted assets	\$4,889,256.33	Total admitted assets	\$5,940,873.47
Liabilities		Liabilities	
Gross claims for losses unpaid	\$1,360,978.71	Gross claims for losses unpaid	\$1,124,330.87
Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	1,616,863.64	Amount of unearned premiums on all outstanding risks	1,309,906.76
Due for commission and brokerage	20,985.59	Due for commission and brokerage	193,879.27
All other liabilities	115,336.92	All other liabilities	1,062,756.67
Total liabilities, except capital	\$3,094,164.86	Total liabilities, except capital	\$3,690,873.47
Statutory Deposit	\$ 500,000.00	Capital paid up	\$1,000,000.00
Surplus over all liabilities	\$1,295,089.47	Surplus over all liabilities	\$1,250,000.00
Surplus as regards policyholders	\$1,855,085.47	Surplus as regards policyholders	\$2,250,000.00
Total	\$4,889,256.33	Total	\$5,940,873.47
Business in Oregon for the Year		Business in Oregon for the Year	
Net premiums received during the year	\$12,294.89	Net premiums received during the year	\$10,789.80
Net losses paid during the year	4,081.50	Net losses paid during the year	2,386.29
Name of Company, The Century Insurance Company, Ltd.		Name of Company, National Casualty Company	
Name of U.S. Manager, L. J. Tillman		Name of President, W. G. Curtis	
Name of Secretary, R. H. Gwyn		Name of Secretary, W. C. Butterfield	
Statutory resident attorney for service, John Schabel		Statutory resident attorney for service, H. E. Saus, Portland, Oregon	

Save Your Hose

**NEW Quick Relief For Corns Callouses Bunions**

**DR. SCHOLL'S ZINO PADS**

Put one on, the pain is gone! 500% softer! Kevex cushioned. New seal tip scalloped edge. Greatly increased quantity.

**31c Pkg.**

Free Meyer Drug Section

Supplement Your Daily Diet With Vitamins!

**\$2.00 Value Fred Meyer A B D G Capsules**

Bottle of **\$1.49**

100

All the vitamins you need in one capsule... Helps to increase energy and increases resistance to colds and infection to disease.

**\$1.50 Fred Meyer Certified Di Calcium Phosphate with Viosterol, 100, 98c**

Calcium and Vitamin D for strong bones, prevention of rickets.

**Norwich Norplex Vitamin B Comp. 98c**

Bottle of 100 tablets. Contains the whole B Complex Vitamins.

**Videlta Emulsion, 8 oz., 98c**

Vitamins A and D, easy to take, no fishy taste.

**Squibb's Adex Tablets, 80, 89c**

For prevention of deficiencies in diet. Vitamins A and D.

**Upjohn's Yeast Tabs., bottle of 250, 85c**

The natural digestive process.

**Norwich Vitamins, bottle 100 caps. \$2.09**

A balanced formula containing Vitamins A, B, C, D and G.

**Miles One A Day Vitamin Tablets, \$2.11**

Bottle of 180 tablets, contains Vitamins A and D for pep and vitality.

Drug Section

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**Miles One A Day Vitamin Tablets, \$2.11**

Bottle of 180 tablets, contains Vitamins A and D for pep and vitality.

Drug Section

Fragrant for Complexion Soap

**Sweetheart Soap 7 For 7 Cakes**

Fragrant and mild for complexion or both soap. Buy in the case lot for thrifty saving.

Free Meyer Drug Section

Cooling and Soothing for Eyes

**20 Mule Team Boric Acid**

50c Val. 1 lb.

Makes a fine eye wash and is soothing to the eyes. Use for an antiseptic or wash.

Free Meyer Drug Section

**\$1.00 Value Nujol Mineral Oil 69c Qt.**

**10c Value Garden Bouquet Soap 4 Cakes 17c for**

**\$1.25 Value PETROGALAR 98c**

**\$1.00 Value Fred Meyer Egg Preserver 69c Gal.**

**DEEP CUT PRICES!**

8c Waldorf Tissue, 3 for 12c

10c Saniflush, 6c

25c 3 in One Oil, 6 oz., 25c

50c F. Meyer Aspirin Tablets, 100, 17c

50c Marrow Oil Shampoo, 6 oz., 29c

**\$1.25 Serutan, 98c**

10c Kite String, 4c

15c Kant Roll Clothespins, Box of 30, 5c

**\$1.25 Absorbine Jr., 89c**

50c Phillips Milk of Magnesia, 39c

35c Cretone Lamp Shades, 9c

15c Elgin Shoe Polish, 10 oz. tube, 8c

Free Meyer Drug Section

For the Smile That Pleases!

**Dr. West's Miracle Tuft T'brush 47c**

Hard or medium texture, three styles. Regular professional, or Oro two-row adult. Hermetically sealed in glass for protection. Waterproof, sterile and in attractive colored handles.

**Dr. West's Youth Toothbrush 33c**

In the size children like. In assorted colored handles. Sterile & a sanitary package.

**Dr. West's No. 25 Toothbrush 25c**

Three styles from which to choose. Regular Oro or Professional. Nylon bristle. Attractive colors for handles. Inexpensive and practical wear.

Free Meyer Drug Section

**BUY BONDS EACH PAYDAY FOR FUTURE SAFETY**

Federal Retail Sales Tax of 10% Applies to All Toilettries, Perfumes, etc. Included in the Tax Law and Will Be Added to the Retail Price at the Check Stand

Prices Good Friday thru Monday

**Fred Meyer FOR thrifty BUYERS LOCALLY OWNED-OPERATED**

Free Meyer Citrates AND Carbonates 8-oz. Bottle **49c**

4-oz. Bottle, 39c

An aid in minor illness.

Free Meyer Drug Section

**CLIP THIS COUPON**

Reg. 15c Value **Parowax** With Coupon **9c** Limit 1 lb.

Use for cleaning and sealing jellies or fruits. Void after May 3, 1943.

Free Meyer Drug Section

**CLIP THIS COUPON**

Reg. 50c Value **Fitch's Cleansing Cream** With Coupon **10c** Limit 2

Keeps the skin smooth and clear of dirt and oil. Void after May 3, 1943.

Free Meyer Drug Section

**CLIP THIS COUPON**

A Complete Garden Tool for Victory Gardeners

**8 in One Garden Tool** With Coupon **\$1.19** Limit 2

Here is a garden tool that is easy to handle yet serves the purpose of 8 different garden tools. A Victory Garden help. Void after May 3, 1943.

Free Meyer Drug Section

**Mother's Day**

Is just Around the Corner. Select Her Gift Now!

**Mother's Day Perfume**

Reg. 25c Per Dram **19c** Dram

• Gardenia • Rose • Violet • Sweet Pea • Apple Blossom

**Sylark 4-Pc. "Ode to Charm" Set, \$1.25**

Contains Soap, Talcum, Perfume, Lifting Fragrance.

**Early American Old Spice Talcum, \$1.00**

Fragrant spicy Talcum for after-bath refresher.

**Barbara Gould 4-Pc. Beauty Messenger, \$1.00**

Anise little satter set for mother.

**Harriet Hubbard Ayers Tulp Time Cologne, \$1.75**

Refreshing as a breath of spring.

**Lantharic, "Three Silent Messengers," \$2.05**

Tweed, Miraclo and Confetti in a charming box.

**Wrisley Hobnail Cologne, \$1.00**

Assorted fragrances of a fine cologne.

**Elmo Double Loose Compact, Black, Fuschia, Ivory, \$2.50**

**Wrisley Gold Tassel Cologne, \$1.00**

Attractively boxed for a perfect gift.

**Cut Crystal Perfume Bottles, 98c**

On a mirrored base.

Free Meyer Drug Section