

Richard Tregaskis



In the spring of 1942 Richard Tregaskis of the International News Service left the United States and headed for the Southwest Pacific as a comparative unknown. Thirteen months later he returned to this country and was hailed as a conquering hero.

During the year he was away, Tregaskis covered the invasion of Guadalcanal and the first seven weeks of Marine fighting on that island, was in on the early stages of the Tokyo air raid, covered the Battle of Midway, wrote a best-selling book and accompanied the forces which invaded the Russell Islands. Finally, dysentery, one of the common ailments of the tropics, caught up with him and forced him back to Honolulu to a hospital.

It was while he was recuperating there that he penned his now famous book, *Guadalcanal Diary*. That volume, the story of his own experiences, was the thing that brought him before the

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eyes of the American public.

When General Doolittle's air armada which bombed Tokyo was making plans for its flight, and the naval force to escort the carrier *Hornet*, which was to be the planes' home base, was being assembled, Tregaskis was right on hand again. He made the voyage on a cruiser which guarded the *Hornet*. At the Battle of Midway he was aboard one of the aircraft carriers which participated in the action, and when it came to occupying the Russell Islands, Tregaskis was again right in the heart of the task force which did the work. And when he took his vacation in the United States last spring, he was merely catching his breath before heading for North Africa.

It wasn't long after he arrived in the Mediterranean that stories began appearing in American papers under the Tregaskis byline, and he is still "somewhere" on the European fighting front covering the big battles which make news.

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