

P. I. - Sunoco. Wed., July 24, 1940.

WAR

The most spectacular bit of war news reports an air battle, a super dog fight, off the southeast coast of England. ~~But the~~ More than a hundred planes were engaged according to the British Air Ministry. But the ~~Nazis~~ Nazis were driven back with the loss of eleven planes by a smaller force of British fighting flyers. However, the German air raids weren't ~~confined~~ ^{not limited} to the southeast. The Nazi bombers attacked all the way from the English Channel to the tip of Scotland.

The British, for their part, sent raiders against the German blitzkrieg bases not only in Germany but in Holland and France.

But what seemed in one way to be the most significant news of all, was a tiny item buried under the more spectacular stories of air fights. A British torpedo motorboat, patrolling in the English Channel, sighted six Nazi torpedo boats approaching the British coast. It was the first time ^{these small} the German warships had come so close. The British motorboat opened fire and put one of the enemy searchlights out of action. Thereupon the Nazi flotilla made off at high speed.

And why should that be considered important? This account sounds as if it were a practice raid, German warships practicing for an attempted landing on British soil.

Meanwhile, though the Nazi air raids are increasing in ferocity, there is yet no sign of Hitler's blitzkrieg against Britain. On the one hand it is pointed out that weather conditions are unfavorable to any attempt at invasion. Also, it is alleged that Hitler has his hands full of diplomatic complications in the Balkans. The Rumanian question seems to be particularly distracting. On the one hand there is Comrade Stalin apparently trying to encourage a Soviet government in Rumania. And over the weekend the Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of both Rumania and Bulgaria have been at Salzburg conferring with Hitler. And the news from Bucharest is that after the Salzburg conference the Rumanian Premier and Foreign Minister will go to Rome, to talk with Mussolini and Ciano. Some people believe that Hitler can't afford to start any blitzkrieg in Britain until he has got everything quiet in the Balkans.

As for the British, here's an optimistic report from Viscount Beaverbrook, Minister of Aircraft Production. He announced in London tonight that the United States Government is going to put its okay on a program of production to supply Great Britain with

8
three thousand airplanes a month. He made this announcement in a broadcast. He said that aircraft factories in Britain have set up a new record during the past week, turning out more than twice as many airplanes and engines as they did a year ago.

Regarding those three thousand planes a month to come from us, he said his information came through the head of the British Aircraft Purchasing Mission in the United States. According to that gentleman, Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau has told him that the government would approve of a program for Britain to buy ^{the} ~~those~~ planes.

POPE

A cable from the Vatican indicates that peace negotiations have been going on in Europe. The same cable, however, reports that *they* ~~they were futile~~ *have been all in vain.* After the speech by Hitler to the Reichstag on Friday, the Vatican put out tentative suggestions through the Papal Nuncios in countries at war. But today it is said Pope Pius has given up hope. The speech broadcast by Viscount Halifax on Monday made the continuation of the war inevitable.

DECREE

That
Frenchmen who left France when the Petain Government surrendered, will be punished, ~~That~~ has been foreshadowed. *and Today*
it became official. ~~today~~. A decree was published ~~today~~ in the official journal of Marshal Petain's Government. (By that decree, *who departed in haste, or otherwise, are* all those ~~Frenchmen who left France are~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ legally no longer Frenchmen. The decree specifies those who left their country between May Tenth and June Thirtieth without orders or without permission from the Government. Twenty-six former members of the Cabinet and *of the French* ~~the~~ Parliament are mentioned by name. Some of them will be tried by court-martial. Others will be deprived of all their property as well as their nationality, ~~That list~~ includes *ing* former Premier Daladier, who is *now* ~~virtually~~ under arrest at Marseilles.

The threat was made still more ominous in a radio speech made today by the new French Minister of the Interior. He told his countrymen that those who threw the country into war, though they knew it was ~~we~~ not ready to fight, would be punished. And in French rhetorical style he added that "on the day they come to trial, the French dead will sit on the prosecutor's bench." He also said

0
that justice would fall on those guilty of political errors and military ignorance. And the Minister of the Interior continued to tell the French people that they've been living on lies, but ^{now} that the hour of truth has come. Then he said something significant of the new political order in France. The cause of French defeat, he said, was the worn-out political, economic and social state which collapsed at the first shock with the German army. "Frenchmen now," he said, "are caught under the debris of the parliamentary and liberal capitalistic regime."

That sounds like a speech ~~that might have been~~ written by ^{any} of Hitler's Nazi spokesmen.

FAMINE

The famine in Europe ^{that Ex-Pres. Hoover foretold,} ~~that has been threatened so long~~
comes closer and closer. The latest note of alarm ^{appears in} ~~comes from~~
an editorial in a French newspaper, ~~It's the paper now considered~~
the organ of the Petain Government. The editorial is a plea for ^{help,}
^{A plea} ~~help~~ to the German conquerors. A shortage not only of food but of
fuel hangs over the French people. And, says this editorial,
doubtless inspired by the government, only the Germans can help.
One cannot expect miracles from the French Government, says the
newspaper, and the German Armistice Commission holds the fate of all
Frenchmen in its hands. What complicates the problem is the increase
of population in those areas of France not occupied by German troops.
The population there is ^{larger} ~~enlarged~~ by millions ^{than} ~~over~~ what it used to be,
^{although} ~~and~~ the government has been making heroic efforts to get refugees
to return to their homes in the occupied regions.

PARIS

Here's a sidelight on life in Paris under the rule of the Nazis. In the windows of some of the Parisian stores are signs reading - "Jews not wanted." ^{Also —} Entertainments at French theatres _^ must include masters of ceremonies who speak German. Incidentally, a story which comes from an American correspondent, reports that the most popular show in Paris at present is the open air concert given every night by a German army band. And hanging over Paris, as over the rest of France, is the terror of a shortage of food!

CONFERENCE

52
The Pan-American Conference at Havana ^{seems to be} ~~is~~ proceeding smoothly and serenely ~~on the outside~~. But, reports indicate that everything is not so calm underneath. Secretary Hull's plan for a Pan-American trusteeship of French and Dutch possessions is not going unopposed. Argentina, for one, is against it, against the idea as a whole. And some of the countries in the north of South America have still more concrete ideas. Some of them don't want any trusteeship over French and Dutch islands, they want them outright. They say the islands ought really to belong to the South American countries, and no nonsense about it. Venezuela, for instance, thinks she ought to have all ^{of} the Dutch West Indies. And Argentina has a century old claim to the Faulkland Islands held by Great Britain. Guatemala says she ought to have British Honduras, *and so on.*

There was a long conference today between the representative of Argentina and Secretary Hull. The Argentinian also had private conversations with the gentlemen from Chile, Peru and Uruguay.

DEFENSE

3
Married men do not need to worry about being conscripted -
married men or any who have people depending on them. We have that
on the word of the Assistant Chief of the ^{U.S.} ~~Army's~~ Army's General Staff,
Brigadier-General Shedd, ^{who told this} ~~told it~~ to the Military Affairs Committee of
the House. He appeared before the Committee to answer questions
about the Burke-Wadsworth Bill for Compulsory Military Training.
That's the bill to set up a well trained army of a million men
completely equipped; ~~for Uncle Sam~~, one million plus half a million
reserves. If ^{the} ~~that~~ bill is passed, some four hundred thousand men
will be drafted in October.

One representative asked Brigadier-General Shedd how many
married men there would be in that October draft, and the Assistant
Chief of Staff replied, "None." Then he was asked, how soon the
draft will reach men with dependents, to which he replied, "Never, ^{that is}
in time of peace."

After the session of the Committee was over, another army
officer explained a bit further. He pointed out that during the
World War though millions were drafted, only fifteen thousand were
men with dependents. Today, the total of men without dependents

24
between the ages of twenty-one and thirty amounts to no fewer than
four and a half millions, ^{And those four and a half million are} not merely men without dependents but
men not essential for either agriculture or industry, and, into the
^{they are} bargain, ~~men~~ physically fit.

One of the Congressmen was also anxious about protecting
men who might be buying homes on the installment plan and might
lose them through being drafted. The General promptly pointed out
that men without dependents are hardly likely to be buying homes.

But another little fact is said to have ^{come out} ~~been revealed~~
today at that Committee hearing. Creating and equipping that army
of a million men, with half a million reserves, will cost six billion
dollars in the coming year.

While the Army was revealing these facts, Colonel Frank
Knox was telling the reporters ^{some} news about the Navy and the National
Defense Commission. Secretary Knox has been ^{working} ~~laying plans~~ with
Sidney Hillman, Co-ordinator of Labor on the Defense Commission.
The private shipyards building ^{war ships} ~~battle liners~~ for Uncle Sam have been
hampered through shortage of labor. So the Commission is making
plans to bring workers to the ~~if~~ job, skilled workers who are

57

unemployed in the inland cities. Contractors who need more men than they can find, are urged to tell the Navy so that they can be supplied with help.

WHEELER

One prominent Democrat who will not bolt is Senator Wheeler of Montana; ^{that's settled} ~~to some people that will come as a bit of a surprise,~~ ^{and despite his} especially ^{frequent} ~~after Wheeler's~~ vehement protest ^s against the third term.

Today he explained that he had been opposed to a third term in principle, but, he adds, he's going to remain a Democrat.

However, ^{he has just} ~~he~~ let it be known that he ^{is} ~~is~~ going to fight at least one of President Roosevelt's measures in the Senate.

The Montana Senator does not like the Burke-Wadsworth Conscription Bill; ~~he~~ says there's no necessity for it in peace-time and that

this talk about a crisis in ^{our} ~~the~~ country ought to stop. ~~Then he~~ remarked acidly that Senator Burke of Nebraska, ~~part author of that~~ bill, had been defeated for renomination and has announced his intention of supporting Willkie.

WALLACE

Henry Wallace once again says he will not resign as
Secretary of Agriculture. *The Democratic nominee for Vice President* ~~He~~ stopped off at Chicago today to make
a speech on his way to Washington from his home town in Iowa.
And, *that* said he to reporters, he has no intention of *quitting* ~~resigning from~~
the Cabinet during the campaign.

Some newspapers today were busy disputing one statement
that Wallace had made about Ex-President Hoover. Wallace and his
friends have alleged that Mr. Hoover hung on to his job as Secretary
of Commerce while he was campaigning for the presidency in Nineteen
Twenty-Eight. The NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM this afternoon points out
that Mr. Hoover offered his resignation to President Coolidge on
July Seventh. Mr. Coolidge was reluctant at first, but on August
Twenty-First, Mr. Hoover's resignation from the Cabinet was accepted,
and his successor appointed.

INDIAN

A lady of the Seneca Indians in New York State has declared war upon the pale faces. Her name is Mrs. Van Aernam and she lives on the Alleghany Indian Reservation. In front of her house runs a ~~ditto~~ dirt road ten miles long, maintained by the State of New York. Mrs. Van Aernam didn't like the traffic that went by on that road. She looked up the records, so she said, and learned from them that the Great White Father had never paid either herself or her ancestors a cent of money for the use of that road.

So she built a barbed wire fence across it. The neighbors went to the court and got orders from both federal and state judges directing her to tear down that barricade. The Seneca lady said she'd do nothing of the sort, so Uncle Sam's marshals tore it down. They had writs from the court to served upon her but she wouldn't be served, so they had to nail them on the door. As soon as the marshals got out of sight, she brought out another bale of barbed wire and started ^{stringing} ~~swinging~~ a new barricade. She has ~~got~~ lots of wire, says Mrs. Van Aernam of the Seneca nation, and she'll keep on putting up fences ^{as often} ~~as many times~~ as the pale faces tear ~~them~~ down.

WEATHER

8

The six-day heat wave has been getting worse ~~and~~ *with*
~~no sign of~~ ^{no} relief in sight. On the North Atlantic seaboard
and parts of the Pacific coast it was comparatively cool ^{today-} but
in the middlewest temperatures were terrific. For instance, a
hundred and one at Chicago, and that's nothing compared to
a hundred and nine degrees at Overton, Nebraska; a hundred and eight
at Lincoln; a hundred and five at North Platte, and in Pierre,
South Dakota, a hundred and fifteen. In thirty-three states,
two hundred and fifty-four dead, seventy-seven from the heat and
a hundred and seventy-seven drowned.

BIRTH RATE

58 1/2

The birth rate in the United States is declining, says a Harvard professor. What's more, it has been declining with notable emphasis in the last ten years. In fact, he says, investigations have shown that the population of America is barely reproducing itself. One of the peculiar facts brought to light is that the birth rate among Catholics is declining faster than among Protestants. So says that Harvard professor. Some Catholic authority will probably give him an argument about that.

9

And the serious result of this decline in the birth rate will be that ten years from now there will be a heavy proportion of old people ~~in America. Think what that will mean.~~ ~~if old Doc Townsend and the California Ham-and-Eggers had their way, that would mean a heavy proportion of old people supported at the expense of the young.~~

59 1/4

But let's ask Milton Cross, the veteran N. B. C. announcer, to give us some news about something that is not declining.