

R.A.F.

Hugh Gibson - Friday, July 9, 1943.

Last night's British bombing of Cologne was distinguished by a light loss sustained by the Royal Air Force. Hitherto, the R.A.F., in striking at Germany's great industrial city, had lost bombers numbered in the twenties and thirties. The last time, a week and a half ago, twenty-five R.A.F. giants failed to return. On Saturday night, when then the British struck at the industrial area across the line from Cologne, thirty-two bombers were lost. Last night - only eight. London explains that the light cost of the raid is to be explained in part by the weather - clouds, a heavy overcast sky, which impeded the attacks of the Nazi night fighters and the marksmanship of the anti-aircraft guns.

It was the hundred and nineteenth raid on that much bombed metropolis of the Rhine, and a thousand tons of bombs were dropped - to keep its war industries out of action.

MEDITERRANEAN

In the Mediterranean sector, it's the same story tonight - air assaults on the Sicilian flying fields. For the sixth day in succession, the twenty-four hour bombardment raised havoc on the island. They are turning Sicily into what today's United Press dispatch calls "a massive Pantelleria." The explosive from the sky was concentrate^d, as usual, on the air bases, and once again the headline name is - Gerbini. That much blasted aviation center will soon be competing for the title of - "the world's most bombed place." Gerbini is, indeed, the most important of the Sicilian air bases, and is being treated accordingly.

PACIFIC ACES

Ever since the American air forces got going in the southwest Pacific, a ~~xxxx~~ steady stream of ~~shocking~~ exploits has been flashing in the day's news. This is true more than ever in the ^{air} ~~sky~~ fights that attend ~~our~~ our invasion of New Georgia Island. Japanese air squadrons fly to the attack daily, and they are defeated just as often. We hear stories that the Jap air force is deteriorating, pilots green and inexperienced and planes not so good. In any case, the character of the sky fighting out there is such that new American air aces are made every day - the pilots running up new records of Japanese planes shot down.

Today's news from the southwestern Pacific citi/s one recent big battle of the sky in which a score of bombers and thirty Zeros came over Rendova Island, ~~and~~ In a swift clash our men shot down five bombers and

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four Zeros, without losing a plane of their own. The star of the occasion was Marine Lieutenant James Swett of San Mateo, California. He had previously distinguished himself by shooting down seven Japs in one engagement back in April. This time he bagged two bombers and a Zero. One Jap fighter was on the tail of another marine and seemed about to shoot him down, when Lieutenant Swett intervened. "I must have poured three hundred rounds into him," the Lieutenant said afterward, "and his plane blew up like ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ matchwood."

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Major James Reimburg of Los Angeles shot down two Zeros. Then he himself was shot down, but he came down safely by the parachute route. His plane was burning, and he had to act fast to get out. He unstrapped his safety belt, opened the cover of the cockpit, and flipped his blazing plane over on its back so that he fell out, and his parachute worked.

It was fast action by Marine Captain Robert Baker of St. Louis. He flew head on to a Zero, and shot it down as the two planes seemed about to collide. Another Zero was on his tail, trying to shoot him down. He swung around and blew it to bits. The maneuver took him into a climb, and up above he found another Zero - which he brought down with a blaze of gunfire.

OAKES

The island of Nassau has a sensational mystery in the death of Sir Harry Oakes, one of the world's richest men, reputed to have been worth as much as two hundred million dollars. He was an American by birth, but became a British subject when he discovered a gold mine in Canada - a fabulous deposit of wealth. He was made a baronet, and of recent years resided at Nassau in the Bahamas.

Today, the Nassau authorities admitted that Sir Harry Oakes died by violence, but refused to say whether he might have been murdered. They merely relate that he was found dead in bed, and had suffered bodily injuries. Rumors have been flying, stories that the multimillionaire baronet was shot. These reports seemed the more plausible today when it was disclosed that two murder experts of the Miami police force had been called to Nassau to help at an inquiry. One officer

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is the head of the Miami homicide bureau and the other
is a fingerprint expert.

Sir Harry Oakes was a close friend of the
Duke of Windsor, Governor of the Bahamas, and the
former British sovereign is said to have been taking
an active part in the investigation.

O.W.I.

In Washington today Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information, announced the resignation of Lowell Mellett, chief of the domestic motion picture branch of the O.W.I. Lowell Mellett, former Washington newspaper editor, has been in charge of the production of motion pictures to circulate war information in this country. Recently, Congress slashed the funds allotted to the O.W.I. and gave the domestic motion picture branch a mere fifty thousand dollars. That is not enough to permit the production of motion pictures, and the O.W.I. screen productions will have to be discontinued. So stated Elmer Davis today, but he added that the work of coordination between the government and the privately owned motion picture industry will go on - the fifty thousand dollars will be enough for that.

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CRIPPS

In London today, an official voice predicted large offensive moves to aid both Russia and China. Speaking was Sir Stafford Cripps, who stated: "We are now on the offensive and almost at any moment there may be a great intensification of that offensive. We shall, in cooperation with the dominions, the Americans, and the other United Nations," said he, "be helping more and more our Russian and Chinese allies."

Sir Stafford Cripps pointed out that Nazi Germany is still very strong and so are the Japanese, and ^{the} Allied armies will incur heavy losses in the field.
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"But we can help keep down those losses," he added.
"The heavier our air attack, the less difficult it will be for our armies and navies."

Sir Stafford Cripps is Minister of British Aircraft Production and, along with other leaders of the United Nations, he looks to air power to minimize the ~~mix~~ necessary losses of manpower.

RUSSIA

~~Good morning everybody.~~

Soviet Russia admitted today that the situation at Belgorod is serious, as the Nazi drive continues to smash forward and make progress. The commander of the Red army has issued an order of - "stand or die."

Moscow reports that the Germans, by hurling in an immense weight of tanks, have crashed into the Soviet defenses in two sectors, and the enemy advance is still continuing. Berlin claims that the Red army front has been broken at various points, and tells of a giant clash ~~of~~, what Berlin calls - "a tremendous tank battle behind the Russian positions, which have been breached." ~~Moscow places emphasis on the monster German tanks, sixty ton monsters called Tiger tanks. Soviet accounts declare that the Nazis are so confident of victory that they don't even bother to camouflage the tanks. The giant tanks go into action with their bodies painted a bright yellow and their turrets painted red,~~

MUNDA

The latest from New Georgia Island relates that the United States marines are now only three miles from the Japanese air base at Munda. The American forces pushed closer to that key flying field when they captured a village called Elelo - which no doubt is one of those South Sea collections of huts and thatched roofs. The marines are closing in, and are expected to launch a decisive assault against Munda at any time now.

They have been impeded by the weather - heavy rains. The skies certainly can teem in those southern latitudes, and a deluge of rain has turned the jungle trails into soggy mud - thereby bogging down troops and transports.

KULA GULF

The Japs are believed to have landed reinforcements in the central Solomons - this in the course of the Battle of Kula Gulf. Their naval squadron was heavily defeated, but American opinion out there is that they contrived to get some troops ashore at Vila, the supply base for the airfield at Munda.

A dispatch today from our invasion forces on New Georgia Island states that the Japanese losses in the Kula Bay engagement are believed to have included two light cruisers, four ~~three~~ destroyers, and ^{another} ~~a~~ craft which was either a light cruiser or a destroyer - these, as against our own loss of one cruiser. And we are told more about the sinking of that vessel, U.S.S. HELENA. Her guns had just smashed a Jap destroyer, and the enemy warship was blowing up, when something hit the HELENA.

~~This explosive something, one would surmise, was a~~
torpedo.


GIRAUD

We have a statement from General Giraud, one of the two Presidents of the French Committee of National Liberation. / He, of course, ^{heads} ~~was~~ one faction ~~of the French who are fighting the Nazis, while General DeGaulle is chief of the other. They compromised the question of leadership by taking equal rank as heads of the French Committee in North Africa - Giraud and DeGaulle being Co-Presidents. Giraud is now in ~~Washington~~ Washington, and ^{has been} ~~was~~ received with high honors - which has led to warm complaints that the United States government is trying to squelch DeGaulle.~~

Today, at the national capital, he made the statement that he and DeGaulle have only one purpose. "We have established," said he, "as our sole aim the defeat of the Axis forces, and the liberation of France." And he added that they both desire to give to France, when that nation is liberated, the kind of

government that is in accord with French traditions.

This would seem to mean -- let the French people
decide.



General Giraud, at his news conference, stated that his North African regime stands ready with three hundred thousand French troops. These will be equipped by the United States - for the invasion and liberation of France. And he added that France will stay in the war with the United Nations until ~~the~~ ^{an} Japs ~~are~~ ^{is} crushed.

SUBMARINES

Here's a late story from Washington, and it's the best kind of news. An official statement issued jointly by the United States and Great Britain declares that the Nazi submarine campaign scored a record-breaking failure in June. The shipping losses last month were the lowest in any month since the United States entered the war.

F.C.C.

A Congressional committee stated today that President Roosevelt has refused to let the Committee procure evidence concerning the Federal Communications Commission and the Army and Navy. The Congressional group is investigating a story about radio intelligence operations in the war areas. These activities of radio and war are now being conducted by the F.C.C., and the statement is that the Army and Navy want to take them over. It is charged that the F.C.C. has been interfering with the workings of military intelligence in the war. The account continues that the armed forces appealed to the White House, but were turned down. - ~~the President deciding to leave the radio intelligence operations in the war areas under control of the Communications Commission, the Army and Navy notwithstanding.~~

In trying to investigate this, the Congressional

Committee asked for permission to examine Army and Navy documents pertaining to the case, and wanted military and naval officers to appear as witnesses. In response, the Departments of War and Navy said - No. In almost identical letters they stated that the President ordered them to refuse - in ~~interest~~ the public interest.

~~In Congress, the phrase - "public interest",~~
~~was immediately questioned. Is it being employed to~~
~~limit the constitutional power of Congress - demanded~~
~~Congressman Cox of Georgia. His contention is that the~~
~~Committee has the constitutional right to investigate,~~
~~and wonders how far the President thinks the executive~~
~~power can go on the grounds of - "public interest."~~

MINERS

President Roosevelt stated today, there was no way by which he could compel John L. Lewis and the Miners Union to sign a contract with the coal mine operators. When the union chief failed to obey, the W.L.B. thereupon asked President Roosevelt to do something to make Lewis put his signature on a contract. Since then, nothing has happened, and today the President explained that there was nothing he could do. At the White House news conference, he pointed out that there was no law that would authorize him to force Lewis to take pen in hand. He explained that in the case of a company, it was different. The law authorizes the government to seize the war plant that is tied up by a strike - but how can you seize a union? The President made the point that there was no means by which he could take over the United Mine Workers of America.

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And now Hugh James.