

L.J. - Sunoco. Wed., Oct. 16, 1940.

WAR

The Nazis have an explanation, their own explanation, for the endurance that the British have displayed under forty days of the most ferocious bombardment ever known. They don't give their enemies any credit for bravery or fortitude. The explanation appears in the official newspaper of Hitler's Black Storm Troops. It begins by commenting on the ability of Londoners to carry on under a continuous hail of bombs, amid seething wreckage and raging flames, without a roof over the heads of the people, without sleep and with the most slender food supplies. All this, declares the organ of the Storm Troops, is not due to British ability to take it, or to the proverbial toughness of the islanders. According to Nazi ideas, it is accounted for by a psychopathic pleasure in destruction. "England," say the Nazis, "approaches death with sensual pleasure and smacks its lips over every phase and bears every humiliation and every cynicism if only it can hope that in dying it may also drag its enemy into the abyss." Such is the Nazi fashion of giving credit to their enemies.

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After today's ~~raid~~ raids over Britain, Nazi pilots returned to Berlin and declared that they left London one large

sea of fire. But London again wasn't the only part of Britain they attacked. The Nazi bombers, flying through low clouds, dropped thousands ~~of tons~~ of bombs on Liverpool, on the industrial Midlands, and all over the northwest part of England. American correspondents report that ~~during the last three nights in the capital of the British Empire, the people went through the most cruel slashing that any big city has ever undergone.~~ They say London is groggy and battered, but still carrying on, ~~and taking it.~~

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One correspondent traveled around London for four hours, making a tour of more than sixty miles of streets. ^{His} ~~That~~ survey showed that in the last three nights, the Nazis have been concentrating on an ever smaller area of the great city. Some of the most famous ~~historic~~ ^{of London} buildings are standing today, bettered and disfigured. Several ~~of them~~ are churches built by England's greatest architect, Sir Christopher Wren. Besides them stores, hotels, apartment houses, theatres, entire squares, have suffered. There is hardly a man, woman or child in London, says this correspondent, who has not ^{now} felt the terror of bombing in some immediate and very real way. For instance, everyone employed in

the office of the United Press has had at least one dose of bombing although they all live in different parts of the city.

he says,
A couple of weeks ago, you could wander over large areas and see no damage. *And he adds that today that is not so.* ~~Today that would be impossible. It could not~~

~~honestly be denied today that London has taken a fierce thrashing.~~

But with it all, there is not a sign of cracking of ~~the~~ morale ^{among} of the civilians. For instance, ~~there's a great hospital with all its windows blasted out, and the framework torn by bombs. Outside of it are huge signs which read: "In spite of Hitler, we're carrying on." Elsewhere~~ there are billboards advertising afternoon tea dances and the advertisements read:- "Don't risk night raids, dance in the afternoon."

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However, with all this, it must not be imagined that London is lying in ruins, as the Nazis claim. Blocks upon blocks of houses and office buildings are unscathed. Industrial plants are working at full blast. Areas around the factories have suffered but the damage was confined mostly to homes and shops, not to the factories themselves.

One American newspaper man reports that he is alive

today owing to the orders of his boss. The district where he lives has been bombed several times, so he was made to sleep at the home of a colleague. In the middle of the night, a bomb demolished the place where he lived, and but for his boss's ~~xxx~~ orders he would have been demolished with it. Along with his home, the correspondent lost seventy-five thousand words of a manuscript of a historical novel. Incidentally, his apartment was in one of the most picturesque parts of London, near the old law courts. At a corner of London, says the American, which even Sir Christopher Wren could not replace.

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The Germans announce once again that the raids of the last three days will be child's play compared to what they have in store for the British. During last night, one thousand Nazi planes dropped two million, two hundred thousand pounds of explosive on the capital. This the Nazis describe as reprisal for the British raids in Germany.

And those British raids in Germany went on with a vengeance. Heavy British bombers, flying over in relays for four hours, ~~xxxxxx~~ dumped ton upon ton of high explosives on the great

Kiel Canal, on Hamburg, and on railroad centers in Germany, more than a score of them. The pilots reported that the naval dockyards at Kiel had been blasted. German ~~figh~~ combat planes tried to fight them off, but the R.A.F. bombers flew through the defense, through heavy anti-aircraft fire, and reached their objectives. And the Admiralty reported that ~~the~~ British warships had destroyed a convoy of three supply ships and three escort ships. British men-o-war also started fires at the French Channel port of Dunkirk. A British light cruiser in the Mediterranean was torpedoed by an Italian airplane, but reached port safely.

EGYPT

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The news from the eastern Mediterranean indicates that the big German-Italian push on Egypt is getting under way. Mussolini's Charlie McCarthy, ~~Ermano~~ Gayda, reports that the Italians have made a new thrust towards Marsa Matruh from Sidi Barrani, which they occupied three weeks ago. The Italians, Gayda says, have got eighteen miles beyond Sidi Barrani and are bombing the British fortifications at Marsa Matruh. Gayda's announcement says nothing of any Germans in that Libyan army. However, it is known that German shock troops are already on the spot with vast quantities of supplies, tanks and bombers, and it has been announced that Hitler's Colonel-General von Kitel was to take over the command of ~~the~~ push on Egypt ^{— relieve} ~~from~~ Mussolini's Marshal Graziani.

BURMA ROAD

That Far Eastern situation looms critical again tonight. In a couple of days the British will be throwing open the Burma Road once more. The Chinese forces of Chiang Kai-shek are getting ready for the stream of supplies that they expect to pour into them through Burma. At present there is a great scene of activity at a town called Lashio in Burma, northeast of the much sung Mandalay. Lashio is one of the jumping off places on ^{the back} ~~the~~ road into China. Some two thousand trucks made in America are being overhauled at Lashio, in readiness for the opening of the Burma Road. One hundred thousand tons of materiel are piled up there, and half a million tons have ~~been~~ accumulated at Rangoon. Of course the Japanese are making their preparations too. They promise a relentless bombardment of that highway into China and Japanese airplanes are being concentrated in Indo-China.

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POLITICS

Henry A. Wallace, Democratic candidate for Vice-President, ~~crashed into~~ ^{made} the headlines today. He started a campaign tour through western Pennsylvania and for his principal attack picked on Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh. Wallace called the Flying Colonel the Number One Appeaser of America. Then he repeated the accusation he made when he accepted the nomination, the accusation that the Republican Party is the party of appeasement. Wallace was particularly incensed by Lindbergh's charge that President Roosevelt is forcing the United States into war with the Axis.

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On the other side of the fence, Republican Candidate Wendell Willkie announced that the principal part of his program was the building of a defense so impregnable that we will not become involved in war with anyone. Willkie made this plea at Mansfield, Ohio, on his way to Cincinnati, where he is to make one of the major speeches of his campaign tonight. Willkie then made the plea, "Join me in a cooperative effort with everyone so that we will have unity in America and no discord." He asked the people listening to become soldiers in the battle to preserve America. And he said President Roosevelt was asking for a third term without telling us anything of either his policies or his principles.

DRAFT

~~It's pretty conservative to say that this day marks off~~
~~a new phase of American history~~ ^{TP} For the first time since the
United States became a nation, we today began the formation
of a standing conscripted army. For the first time in peace we
enrolled our young men. From seven o'clock on, sixteen million,
four hundred and four thousand, ~~two~~ ^{between the ages of} twenty-one ~~and~~ thirty-five,
went to the school houses, town halls and fire houses of America
and registered. They did it cheerfully and in Democratic fashion.
The sons of the Rockefellers showed up at the registration places
side by side with the sons of people who work for them. John D.
~~Rockefeller~~ the Third and Laurence S. Rockefeller were among the
earliest at a little fire house just outside the entrance to the
great Rockefeller Estate at Pocantico Hills, New York. Most of
those who registered there today were Rockefeller employees.
^{Three} ~~Two~~ of the Rockefellers, Nelson, ^{Winthrop} and David, registered later in
the day.

Young millionaires and day laborers put down their
names and told all about themselves. ~~John Roosevelt, youngest of the~~
~~sons of the President, stood in line with the others at the~~

~~little red school house at Nahant, Massachusetts.~~ Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., went to a fire station at Indianapolis, ^{and} took his turn. ~~and, when the County Clerk asked him his occupation he replied with a chuckle "Unemployed!"~~

~~Young bankers and young newspaper men,~~ ^{TF} Athletes and sporting editors, Hollywood stars and saxophone players were among the sixteen millions. The Governor of a sovereign state, Harold Stassen of Minnesota, registered at St. Paul although his position makes him exempt; likewise the new Senator-designate from ~~this~~ Minnesota, ~~Ex~~ Editor ^{JOE} Joseph H. Ball, ~~whom Stassen appointed the other day to succeed the late Senator Lundeen.~~

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At Washington Senator Rush Holt of West Virginia, who is only thirty-five and exempt until Nineteen Forty-One, was registered in his office by a registrar of the District of Columbia. ^{by the way,} Holt, ~~stood out by contrast among most of the other young men by~~ [^] described the procedure as silly and unnecessary. Several other members of Congress registered, most of them in their home states, ~~but a couple of them in Washington.~~ Of course ~~they're~~ all exempt so long as their constituents keep them in office.

The draft lists will show celebrated names aplenty when they are completed. For instance, Lanny Ross, Kenny Baker, Barry Wood, Bob Trotta among the radio headliners. Band Leaders Eddie Duchin, Eddie LeBarron, Bob Chester, Gene Krupa, Bobby Burns, and several others. The entire personnel of some of the best known bands were on the lists. Among the athletes, Max Baer, Champion Joe Louis, Buddy Baer, ^{and} Billy Cahn, the light heavyweight. Of the ball players, Manager Joe Cronin of the Boston Red Sox registered at a little red school house in Newton, Massachusetts. Cleveland's pitcher, Bob Feller, showed up early this morning in front of a small shoe repair shop carrying a shot gun. Bystanders raised their eyebrows and wondered whether he totted the shotgun ~~around for business~~ ^{because he was} ~~looking for a war.~~ ^{looking for a war.} ~~purpose~~ Bob explained that he was going duck hunting.

Hugh McDermott, Chief of Police of East Liverpool, Ohio, wires me that several of East Liverpool's young men brought rifles to the registration polls. Others asked the registration board for guns. Evidently they thought they were going out to fight right away.

National Open ~~and~~ Golf Champion Lawson Little and

Byron Nelson, Champion of the Professional Golfers Association,
~~joined the party.~~ *signed up today.*

At New York, forty young men registered whose average height was only three feet, ten inches. They ^{are} midgets. In Hollywood Robert Taylor, Don Ameche, Tyrone Power, Errol Flynn and a host of the younger glamour boys were in line.

(One amazing feature of this whole performance is that it went off as smoothly as though conscription were an old story for us.) The young men passed through the mill at the rate of more than a million an hour. At some places, men had to wait in line four or five hours, they said. At some of the polling places in New York ~~the~~ young men were ~~standing~~ in line as early as two o'clock this morning.

~~So far the only trouble reported was in Chicago. A couple of young men and a young woman were arrested for passing out leaflets with the legend, "Don't register for the draft." When they were taken to the station house, the men turned out to be Divinity students of the University of Chicago, and the young woman described herself as a housewife. But for the most~~

THE DICTATOR

When Charlie Chaplin has a new film, that's news of world importance. And, Charlie's long-awaited picture, THE DICTATOR, his first in five years, had its grand premiere in New York last night. All America will soon be talking about it. So we might as well do a little. We are all entitled to play the role of critic when a new Chaplin film comes out, because Charlie belongs to us all.

THE DICTATOR, as you probably know, is one hundred per cent Charlie Chaplin. He not only plays the leading part - two leads in fact - and is on the screen more than ninety per cent of the time, but he produced it entirely with his own money. He was his own director, and his own author. In fact Charlie even wrote the music.

(My wife and I happened to be there as guests of the Czar of the film industry, Will Hays, and his lady.) Charlie Chaplin and his wife, Paulette Goddard, were on hand, and Charlie, in addressing the audience, referred to her as "my wife", the first time he has done so publicly, so far as I know.

Judging by the laughter everybody seemed to enjoy the

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film enormously. It's savage satire on Hitler and Mussolini, and especially the parts where Charlie is the Chaplin of old - the pathetic tramp.

Charlie plays a dual role, a barber in the Ghetto, and, Dictator of the country of Ptomainia; while Jack Oakie, a perfect Mussolini, is the Dictator of Bacteria.

Since I first met Charlie Chaplin in Hollywood some twenty-five years ago I had often heard that it was his ambition to be a tragedian, to play Hamlet. At last he does. And alas, that's where the film takes a nose dive. At the end he turns serious and becomes Hamlet - with a dash of Dorothy Thompson.

If only Charlie would turn his picture over to a good newsreel cutter! His shows are always made up of episodes just as newsreels are. In one hour Ben Loweree, Johnny Flaige, or any ~~FRENCH~~ of Truman Talley's cutters at Fox Movietone could vastly improve THE DICTATOR.

But I'd like to go again tonight just to see the scene in the Ghetto, where Charlie, the Jewish barber, does a

dance on the sidewalk, in and out of the gutter, with Storm Troopers converging upon him from all directions. That one is as good as anything Charlie ever did. Yes, and the scene in the cellar where the men around a table are eating pudding -- the idea being that the man who finds the coin in his pudding will surely die. And, shaving the customer to the music of Listz's Hungarian Rhapsody! Yes, and above all, where Charlie, as Hitler, does a ballet with the globe of the world, a globe that turns out to be a balloon. That one would make a perfect ending to THE DICTATOR. As the balloon - the world - bursts in his face and he bursts into tears. Yes, if he had only skipped his frenzied plea to the world at the end of the picture.

One wonders what the repercussions from this film will be in Germany. And will Hitler and Mussolini ever see themselves as Charlie Chaplin and Jack Oakie? Well, it was a thrilling premiere, Hugh.