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DAKAR

L.I. - Sunoco. Tues., Sept. 24, 1940.

The battle at Dakar continues. This is announced by both the British and the French.

Earlier in the day, it seemed that the attempt to seize the strategic French West African port had been called off. General DeGaulle, leader of the French who are opposed to the government of Marshal Petain, told the story of yesterday's happenings. He stated that he and his force of French troops who are continuing the war against Germany were aboard a French vessel - not a British battleship. A squadron of British warships accompanied them to ~~protect~~ ~~product~~ them. DeGaulle states that he sent a party to go ashore, their boats flying a French flag and a white flag of truce. But the supporters of the Petain government on shore fired on them and wounded two officers. Later, there was an attempt to make what DeGaulle calls - a peaceable landing. Once again the French defenders ashore opened fire. This time there was an exchange of shots and a number of the landing force were killed. Meanwhile, ~~French~~ British warships bombarded the city of Dakar and inflicted heavy damage and casualties.

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General DeGaulle's report this morning was that he had

discontinued the attempt to land in the French colony, not wanting to shed any more French blood, not wanted^{ing} to cause civil fighting among fellow countrymen. One report from London explained that DeGaulle had over-estimated the amount of sympathy for his cause in French West Africa, ^{had} miscalculated the amount of support he'd get.

Then later in the day came bulletins telling of the renewal of battle. From London it was a cautious statement, in which DeGaulle declared that his attempt was being renewed and had a good chance of success. The report given by the French government is much more specific. It states that today the British fleet opened another heavy bombardment of Dakar and at the same time the DeGaulle men made various attempts to land down the coast from the port. Half a dozen landing parties were repelled^{ed}, beaten off - declares the Petain government. A French submarine was sunk in firing a torpedo at a British cruiser. Most of the crew were saved. The French government claims that the British cruiser was hit.

French reprisals for the Dakar attack came promptly today when French war planes bombed Gibraltar. They came from French

Morocco, and they claim that they inflicted heavy damage, causing explosions at the Rock. Gibraltar advices say that French planes did drop bombs, ^{that} and caused ~~a couple of fires, - nothing serious,~~ though, ~~declare the British.~~

So there's an informal war going on between the two former allies. The British government seems determined to seize French West Africa - or have the DeGaulle French forces do it. This - to check the Germans and Italians. DeGaulle today issued a manifesto in which he declared that the Petain government was permitting Nazi and Fascist agents to take virtual control at Dakar - with the threat that the port might become ^{an} ~~the~~ Axis point of operation. ~~The French government on this side declares that it will defend French West Africa with every means in its power and there's no telling how far the present clash may become magnified.~~

In another French colony, a long way off, the Japanese are renewing their attack on French Indo-China. The French are said to be fighting back strongly, battling against the Japanese push into the northern part of the colony. The assault was made

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when an agreement seemed about to be ^{concluded}~~made~~ between the representatives
of Tokyo and France - an agreement yielding to the bulk of Tokyo
demands. They say the invasion has been launched independently
by the Mikado's commander at Canton. In Washington the French
Ambassador today announced that France will resist the Japanese
army no matter at what cost.

LONDON EVACUATION

The authorities at London today ^{tell of} ~~announced~~ a new and greater evacuation of women and children, ~~from the city under bombing~~. Mothers and youngsters ~~are~~ to be taken from the devastated areas; ~~the city and~~ sent to the country. ~~The government is providing them with all facilities.~~

Since the beginning of the war, there have been efforts to get children out of the threatened capital, but as of today half of them are still there. Four hundred and sixty-four thousand have been removed, two hundred thousand in the last ten days. Four hundred and twenty-eight thousand ~~xxx~~ children of school age still remain in the London area.

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The new drive to evacuate the women and the youngsters the is not only because of bombing - but also because of the danger of an epidemic of disease. This is one thing with which the British are reckoning seriously - the incessant crowding of hundreds of thousands of people in air raid shelters may cause the outbreak of a disastrous epidemic.

WAR

Today the war in the air was blow and counter-blow, -
hit and hit back. The British began the hitting. The R.A.F. in
the dimness of last night and this morning launched its heaviest
blow at Berlin thus far. The London Air Ministry reports that
important centers of Berlin were ^{hit - and} what it calls, "extensively
damaged." Railroads, power stations and war factories. "Many
~~fires were seen to break out,~~" says London. ~~"One aircraft alone~~
~~started large fires which were visible miles away. Another,"~~ London
~~continues, "reported a power station alight at four different points."~~
^{London}
The Air Ministry communique continues with statements like this:
"Bombs bursting on power stations and flames leaping high. One
pilot," it relates, "was guided in by a great fire which blazed up
more fiercely as he piled bombs on top of it."

On the German side, today's Berlin bulletin admits that
the British bombers hit a gas works, started raging fires at at least
two factories, and blasted one electric rail line badly enough to
tie up transportation. The immediate response of the Nazi radio and
press was an outbreak of fury, a tempest of raging words, demanding
instant and ruthless retaliations. While they were talking, they also

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acted, as Goering's air force hit back. Berlin claims heavy bombing damage on London today and declares that the war planes blasted

Waterloo Station - that famous railroad center just across the

from
Thames ~~is~~ the center of the British government. London reports

that heavy German air attacks were beaten off, though some of the

bombers got through. *And tonight London is being bombed again.*

One ugly form of retaliation is reported - hitting at universities. Berlin states that Nazi war planes bombed Cambridge.

they say the
This - in retaliation for the previous attack which ~~the~~ R.A.F. made
1 1
on the university city of Heidelberg.

BOMBING

The British Air Ministry tonight announced that today R.A.F. bombers made a daylight attack on a force of German mine sweepers in the Channel. These vessels were clearing the narrow water of hidden high explosive, when the British war planes swooped down on them. The Air Ministry states that two of the mine sweepers were sunk and one damaged.

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This seems to be the same episode that was reported earlier in the day - as witnessed from the top of the chalk cliffs at Folkstone. The previous account told of R.A.F. bombers attacking Nazi torpedo speed boats and sinking five. However, according to the late official account, they were not motor torpedo speed boats, they were mine sweepers. The number sunk was not five, but two - one damaged.

INVASION

Today we have some London comment about a story that has been circulated recently - the story that the Germans have already attempted an invasion of England, with disastrous failure. The accounts told of huge Nazi troop losses in efforts to land on the coast of Great Britain. More recently, the rumor went like this, that the Nazis were trying out practice maneuvers for the invasion, ~~going through a routine of landing which they would try to put into effect later on.~~ And these practice manoeuvres ended disastrously with heavy losses of life.

Today the LONDON DAILY MAIL printed still another version, which stated that the German invasion fleet ~~had~~ sustained ^{heavy} ~~a huge~~ loss of life, fifty to sixty thousand troops, ^{lost. Picked men.} ~~The DAILY MAIL said~~ ^{This occurred} ~~that this huge number of soldiers had been lost~~ when the invasion fleet was hit by the storm last week. Crowded transports foundering in the tempest, ~~presumably.~~

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Later in the day, sources close to the British government declared that the newspaper story was wrong - ~~greatly~~ exaggerated. The storm last week did play havoc with boats of the Nazi invasion fleet, but there were no troops aboard these

craft at the time. So says the official source, which goes on to tell what may very well be the real story~~yes~~ behind all those rumors. The statement is that the Germans did lose what is called "a considerable number of fully equipped troops at sea." They were going through embarkation exercises - a practice maneuver for invasion. They were surprised by Royal Air Force bombers, and sustained considerable losses, - ~~as they were practicing embarkation for invasion.~~

This version is accompanied by a strong denial by British personalities who should know. There has been no invasion attempt by Nazi Germany. No effort to land on the British coast, says London.

COMMUNICATIONS

Coming home —

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x It is specifically stated that no censorship of radio is planned in the creation of a National Defense Communications Board. President Roosevelt established the Board today, and its purpose is to coordinate the use of radio, telegraph and cable for defense in time of emergency. To this general explanation the White House statement adds: "The Board will have no power to censor radio or other communications - or take over any facilities." No censorship, and the government will not take over the operating plants. Not in the working of the new Defense Communications Board.

Well, Tommy the Cork, has resigned. That same Thomas G. Corcoran who has been so prominent in the affairs of the New Deal. He left the government service today, but he isn't exactly out of New Deal affairs. He becomes a Vice-Chairman of "The National Committee of Independent Voters", supporting a Third Term.

Tommy the Cork has been a ~~very~~ good deal of a legend in Washington, as an inside New Dealer with a special track to the White House. In the early days of the Roosevelt administration, great fame attached to the ranking members of the Brain Trust - those much debated professors. It was ^{Raymond} Moley who for a while was a storm center as the ^{No. 1} ~~arch~~ Brain Truster. Then it was ^{Rex} Tugwell, who became Number One Brain Truster to the President. In later years, ^{more or less} the term "Brain Trust" disappeared from current usage, and Washington gossip mentioned - the "^{Inner} ~~Inner~~ Circle." That ^{Inner} ~~Inner~~ Circle featured the twin names of Corcoran and Cohen - ace inside advisors to the President. The front man of the pair has been Corcoran - Tommy the Cork. I have the impression that it was President Roosevelt who jocundly applied the funny nickname.

Tommy the Cork, though reputed to be extremely influential in the

New Deal, held no vastly important government post. He has been employed as a special attorney for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, ~~Committee~~ That's the job he resigned today - to become Vice-Chairman of "The National Committee of Independent Voters", supporting a Third Term.

This is a new campaigning organization, and today it elected Mayor LaGuardia of New York as National Chairman. Senator Norris, Honorary Chairman. ~~And~~ today President Roosevelt received a delegation of the Committee, and accepted their pledge of support.

DOCTOR

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In Brooklyn, Dr. A. Nathaniel Rosen learned an interesting thing, ~~today, exceedingly interesting to the doctor.~~ He's hale and hearty, practicing medicine industrially - but six years ago he was shot down, shot five times. ^{one} ~~The doctor~~ ^{And} never knew why. It was one big mystery in the physician's life.

Today the police, in their investigation of the Brooklyn Murder Syndicate, disclosed the fact that Dr. Rosen was shot six years ago by two professional killers of Murder Incorporated - a contract job. "Why?" ^{Just} ~~It was~~ a mistake, one of those utterly vicious crimes in which gang gunmen blunder and shoot the wrong person. One of New York's sensational cases, some while ago was the murder of a mild, peaceable employee of a piano company - a gangland mistake. They were gunning for a racketeer who looked like the victim. The same with the physician of Brooklyn. They mistook him for a mobster called Knockout Halperin. Luckily, the doctor survived - to hear the explanation today.

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There won't be any prosecutions. The case ^{is now} ~~today was~~ marked "closed." There were two gunmen in the crime, one who some time later was killed trying to escape from the police. The other committed suicide in jail. As for the mobster, Knockout Halperin, the gang made another attempt to get him - and succeeded.

WORDS

Suppose a fellow were to say to a girl: "You gimp ~~you~~
little thrip, you're a dilly." What would the young lady reply?
She might respond tartly: "Who's a thrip, you big ^{bassoon?"} ~~baboon?~~ ~~I feel~~
~~like seeking you out!~~ She might think you were insulting her,
when, in fact, you'd be paying her a snappy compliment - in a most
modern way. It's all a question of the latest thing in words.

Since I make a living with words, I'm interested in them, -
and I noticed some odd ones in a book recently out, ~~It is a book~~
called "If You Drink", by Wilfred Funk. Wilfred, is of the Funk and
Wagnalls lineage, and takes naturally to lexicography and tricks of
words. In his book, ~~"If You Drink"~~, he takes a satirical fling at
the toppers, especially those of the smart nightclub variety.

Naturally, ^{he} ~~Wilfred Funk~~ gets in quite a few of the latest nifty
expressions ^{from} ~~appropriate to the~~ café society ~~kind of~~ chatter. ^{And}
~~fact, he~~ coins a few of his own, ~~which are~~

~~I noted, For example, the word~~ "blappy", which means
what it sounds like, a fellow gets blappy around the waist. Or ~~maybe~~
~~he's~~ loopy. ~~That's when he has got around to~~ The silly stage of
highball consumption. But the verbal novelty I liked best was the

monosyllable "thrip". Meaning - the snappy sort of cutie. Also

the adjective "gimp" - meaning, ~~neat and~~ natty. What about

"dilly?" That signifies something ~~exceptional, rather~~ wonderful.

So it's quite complimentary, ~~fellows,~~ for you to say

Hugh; *Clemp, you Gimp*
to your girl, ~~"You gimp"~~ little thrip, you're a dilly." But

you might ~~as well~~ duck, just to be on the safe side.

won by ~~the~~ Commonwealth-Edison Post of Chicago. Champions in
the game, ^{of} beating the drums and blowing the bugles! ^{TP} And

now Hugh beat the drum and
blow the bugle for the Blue
Smoco while I say S-L-U-T-M.

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