

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

1305

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

*C. J. Sunoco. Tuesday, Aug. 31, 1943. Washington.*

CHURCHILL

Statements made today by British ~~xxx~~ Prime Minister Winston Churchill had largely to do with Soviet Russia. **And** British-American relations with our Soviet Allies are so important that it is well to look closely at the Churchill words.

He confirmed previous explanations of why Stalin was not at the Quebec conference - had not been invited, in fact. "It would not have been suitable," said he, "for Russia to have been represented at this Anglo-American conference." And he pointed out that the Quebec conversations did not concern military operations in Europe alone. They were, in the words of Churchill, "largely, if not mainly, concerned with heating and inflaming the war against Japan, with whom the Soviet government have a five-years treaty of non-aggression." So Russia was not invited. "It would," he remarked, "have been an embarrassing invitation for us to send."

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## 2 CHURCHILL

Nevertheless the Prime ~~Minister~~ Minister and President Roosevelt want to have a three-cornered meeting with Stalin.

"If that has not yet taken place" said Churchill, "it is certainly not because we have not tried our best."

He said that Marshal Stalin at the present time cannot leave Russia because he is conducting such huge military operations. But Churchill and Roosevelt will keep on trying. "The President and I," said the Prime Minister, "will persevere in our efforts to meet Marshal Stalin." And he said that in the mean time it was necessary ~~and~~ and urgent that the foreign ministers of the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia should get together for a talk.

"We would also be very glad," declared Churchill, "to associate Russian representatives with us in political decisions which arise out of the victory the Anglo-American forces have gained in the Mediterranean." And he added that there was no field of planning or policy in which the British and Americans do not wish to consult Soviet Russia.

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

A. S. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## 3 CHURCHILL

Whereupon Churchill took up the question of a second front. "We have heard a lot of talk in the past two years," said he, "about establishing what is called a second front in Northern France against Germany. Anyone," he continued, "can see how desirable that immense operation of war would be." He said he did not blame the Soviets for demanding a second front. "It is quite natural," he reflected, "that the Russians, bearing the main weight of the German armies on their front, should urge us so ceaselessly to undertake this task and should in no way conceal their complaints and even reproaches. I do not blame them at all for what they say," declared Churchill.

And then he added a bit of rather wistful comment in these words: "We once had a fine front in France, but it was torn to pieces by the concentrated <sup>d</sup> might of Hitler. It is easier," he mused, "to have a front pulled down than it is to have it built up again."

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

1595

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## RUSSIA

A victory bulleting from Moscow tonight discloses two new great drives by the Red Army -- drives that have smashed through for big gains. They are on widely separated fronts -- one before Smolensk, the area west of Moscow; The other in the Ukraine, northwest of Kharkov.

Before Smolensk the Red Army drove through on a broad front, and made a gain of thirty miles. <sup>TP</sup> Of all the important points on the Russian front, Smolensk is number one -- and any threat in that direction menaces the whole German line from the Gulf of Finland to the Black Sea. If the Red Army continues its march on Smolensk, you can depend on it that a success in that theatre would <sup>mean</sup> ~~mean~~ a general German retreat to the west -- a full scale retirement which some think is likely to happen.

The Soviet thrust northwest of Kharkov is vitally important, too. There the Red Army has driven forward on a sixty mile front, and made a forty mile advance. Russian ~~units are striking at an important railroad center one hundred~~

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## 2 RUSSIA

~~and fifty five miles northwest of Kharkov. That's at about  
the junction of the Kharkov front with the one further north,  
and means a general break-through if the advance goes on.~~

Meanwhile at the south, on the Black Sea shore, the Red Army is mopping up Nazi units trapped by the capture of Taganrog, that anchor of the southern German line which the Nazis ~~are~~ abandoned. They had to -- menaced by the flanking sweep of the general Russian advance in the Ukraine.

(end)

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

1595

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## ITALY

Today an Allied air-mada fought what was possibly the biggest and fiercest air battle in the Mediterranean campaign. Hitherto, Allied bombers, raiding military objectives on the Italian peninsula, had not encountered any great amount of opposition. But today's news might seem to indicate that the Germans have reinforced their sky fleets in the Mediterranean sector - because we are told specifically about ~~Messerschmitts~~ <sup>Nazi</sup> Messerschmitts of the latest type, warplanes with belly fuel tanks for extra range.

These Messerschmitts today rose to the defense at the town of Aversa, which is an important railroad center. American and British squadrons are still hammering away at the Italian railroad system, which has been virtually put out of commission in important sectors of southern Italy. At Aversa the Allied air-mada of medium bombers and fighters smashed the targets and was under prolonged attack by about seventy-five Messerschmitts. The battle went on as far as a hundred miles out to sea - because of the long range of the



# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## 2 ITALY

enemy fighters with their belly tanks and extra fuel.

The Allied formations flew low, and the combat was *and so near the waters of the Mediterranean* so bitter that sometimes the whirling planes almost flicked the waves of the sea with their wings.

Seventeen Messerschmitts were shot down in the maze of dogfighting. We are not told exactly what our own loss was in that particular fracas. The report includes other raids, including one by flying fortresses against an airbase twenty miles south of Rome. In all the fields of action for the day, we lost fifteen planes.

There is no Allied confirmation of an Axis report of a British landing at the toe of Italy. Enemy accounts claim that four hundred British commandos made a landing for what the German news agency describes as - "a small maneuver." According to the Nazis, the commando party was overwhelmed by a promptly organized counter-attack - and some thirty escaped to the mountains of Calabria. London gives no confirmation of the story.

(end)

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

1595

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## MUSSOLINI

Italian newspapers today announced ~~that~~ the arrest of one of the <sup>favorites</sup> ~~sweethearts~~ of the one-time Duce Mussolini. The police seized <sup>this friend</sup> ~~the light of love~~ of the former Blackshirt Dictator, together with her father, mother and sister. The charges against them are not made public, but it is quite possible that they have to do with the acquisition of property. The Badoglio government has been making moves to seize quantities of wealth piled up by the erstwhile big-wigs of Fascism, and it is well known in Italy that Mussolini gave the lady in the case a great estate and a magnificent villa, which he built for her and her family. ~~It's great when a guy can give a~~  
~~let like that.~~

~~Mussolini, throughout his flamboyant career, had a string of romances and scandals, and the latest concerned Clara Petacci, daughter of the well-known physician. Her~~  
<sup>Her</sup> father was of a medical family that had been attached to the hospital of the Vatican for generations. Duce Mussolini and



# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

1995

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## 2 MUSSOLINI

Clara Petacci had been talked about since Italy entered the war, a time of disaster for the unfortunate nation - but also a time of sentimental sighing for the aging Duce. He met her at a seaside resort, and thereafter they were inseparable - Mussolini around sixty and the girl perhaps twenty.

The story in Italy is that during his conferences with Hitler at Verona, just before his downfall, Mussolini telephoned to his dear Clara three times a day. That was during the climax which led to the catastrophe - when Hitler informed Mussolini that south and central Italy could not be defended, and would have to be abandoned to the Allies. And while these unhappy facts were being disclosed, the Duce never failed to call Clara - until the time came when he returned to Rome, was tossed out of power and taken away to imprisonment.

*Petacci,*  
And now Clara, and her family have been arrested.

~~very likely because of that fabulous villa and estate that Mussolini gave to them.~~

(end)

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

1945

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## PACIFIC

New reports from the Southwest Pacific tell how Allied forces have destroyed or damaged seventy-five Japanese planes, thirty landing barges, and two ships -- including a cruiser. These results were accomplished by the constant air attacks that are blasting the bases of supply for the Japanese garrison at Salamaua. Day after day our air forces flail away at the lines of provisioning and munitioning with the purpose of isolating the enemy force at Salamaua and weakening it for a final assault.

On the ground, the news tells of two Japanese counter-attacks launched against the American and Australian troops that are closing in on Salamaua. They are advancing on the enemy stronghold from three sides, and to stop them the Japs launched counter-blows that the dispatch describes as frenzied. They tried to storm an important ridge, advancing through marshy low lands and then making their frenzied attack.

## MORE DOCTORS AND REHABILITATION

Here in Washington, while talking to the new Surgeon-General of the Army, Major General Norman Kirk, I learned that Uncle Sam, for the Army alone, needs another seven thousand doctors. But General Kirk explained to me that they are doing everything possible to avoid taking doctors from civilian life where they are indispensable. They are trying to arrange it so that there will be one doctor left, in each community, for every fifteen hundred people.

General Kirk also told me that on his recent trip to North Africa, General Eisenhower told him that of all the branches of our armed services, the men of the Medical Corps had done the number one outstanding job.

-----  
And, here at home, Colonel William Holbrook and Lt. Colonel Rusk, who are on the Washington staff of General Grant, the Air Surgeon, told me of the vast convalescent and rehabilitation training program they have been putting into operation - to recondition soldiers. So far they have given fifteen million man hours

of this new physical and educational training to soldiers.

Moreover, this new work has had an immense effect on the duration of various illnesses. They've cut the average length of time out for measles almost fifty per cent; scarlet fever nearly thirty per cent, and so on. And the recurrence rate has been reduced from thirty to three per cent, which seems almost like a miracle.

It looks as though the American soldier is getting the finest possible medical treatment, and that great progress in this respect is being made.



# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

1595

A. N. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENTNEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDJ. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

## WRECK

Last night's railroad disaster in New York State is blamed on the faulty judgment of a railroad engineer. Twenty-six persons were killed and seventy-five were injured when the speedy and crowded Lackawanna Limited hit a freight locomotive. Sabotage had been suspected, but today's investigation indicated there is no suspicion of any foul play.

A freight locomotive was switching cars at Wayland, New York. In doing so the locomotive backed onto the main tracks, and just at that moment the Lackawanna Limited was coming along; ~~It was~~ traveling at seventy miles an hour, ~~was~~ behind time and trying to make up schedule. And with that tremendous impetus the passenger train hit the switch engine.

Today the engineer of the freight locomotive explained that the fast passenger train coming down the main line arrived sooner than he expected, and he thought he had time to do the switching job. So he backed his locomotive, and it had just pushed through the switch on the main track when the Lackawanna Limited came rushing.



DREW PEARSON

President Roosevelt today lashed out with the most blistering invective that he has ever hurled against any individual newspaper man. He did not mention the newspaper man by name, but there is no doubt about whom he meant. He said it was the same Washington columnist whom Secretary of State Cordell Hull denounced yesterday. The Secretary of State mentioned the name-- Drew Pearson, of press and radio.

Drew Pearson, in commenting on the reported resignation of Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles, declared that this represented the removal of the only important figure in the State Department who has been friendly toward Soviet Russia. And he indicated that Secretary Hull and other key figures in the department are opposed to the Soviets and want to see them weakened and bled white in their conflict with Nazi Germany.

Secretary Hull, in response to that, accused Drew Pearson of what he called - "monstrous and diabolical falsehoods."

DREW PEARSON

President Roosevelt today lashed out with the most blistering invective that he has ever hurled against any individual newspaper man. He did not mention the newspaper man by name, but there is no doubt about whom he meant. He said it was the same Washington columnist whom Secretary of State Cordell Hull denounced yesterday. The Secretary of State mentioned the name-- Drew Pearson, of press and radio.

Drew Pearson, in commenting on the reported resignation of Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles, declared that this represented the removal of the only important figure in the State Department who has been friendly toward Soviet Russia. And he indicated that Secretary Hull and other key figures in the department are opposed to the Soviets and want to see them weakened and bled white in their conflict with Nazi Germany.

Secretary Hull, in response to that, accused Drew Pearson of what he called - "monstrous and diabolical falsehoods."

*said* The President ~~followed that up today~~ ~~saying~~ that the Drew Pearson statement was a lie from beginning to end, and that the commentator was a chronic liar in his statements about governmental events in Washington. And the President added: "There are other chronic liars among the newspaperman."

Well, so long until tomorrow.