

C.I. - Sunco. Friday, Oct. 18, 1940.

WAR

One headline today blazons a report that we've had before. There has been an insistent rumor that the Nazis have already made an attempt to invade Britain, and were beaten off disastrously. Now we have the same thing again - with headlines. <sup>TP</sup> The very idea of the invasion of Britain is so dramatic, that it's worth taking a close look at the evidence. <sup>R</sup> Today's invasion cue comes from the Air Ministry ~~in~~ London. It's in the form of an off-hand statement in the last paragraph of a bulletin. The Air Ministry communique recites instances of heavy damage inflicted by the Royal Air Force in recent weeks. In proof of this, it gives reports from reliable neutral sources. The bulletin lists a whole series of destructive exploits by the R.A.F. - always quoting the neutral sources. And it ends with this brief paragraph:- "There is evidence, too, of the value of the R.A.F.'s determined attacks on invasion ports." And then the paragraph continues:- "One report states that on September Sixteenth, many German troops were embarked, but later were taken off their ships. Invasion plans," the bulletin concludes, "were not adopted because of the sustained offensive of the R.A.F."

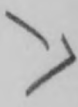
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This off-hand last paragraph caused the United Press correspondent at London to summarize with the following lead:-

"German plans for an invasion of the British Isles were blasted into postponement by the Royal Air Force on September Sixteenth."

And that's a pretty accurate summing up.

In London, tonight, there's a difference of informed opinion. Some ~~ix~~ believe, on the basis of today's revelation that September Sixteenth was really the date set by Hitler for the invasion, that the attempt was beginning when the Royal Air Force



swooped down. Other London sources are included to suspect that September Sixteenth was not the date at all, but that German commanders, in loading boats with soldiers, were practicing embarkation - a kind of <sup>invasion</sup> ~~practice~~ drill. This trend of opinion is that it was R.A.F. bombing not on that particular day, but all along, that has checked the Hitler ~~invasion~~ plans.

5/16/40  
Last night's story from Berlin of a vast Nazi fleet of three thousand planes heading for London, did not materialize in the news from Britain. London reports a lot of bombing last night, but nothing more than usual. Inquiries in Berlin today failed to elicit any news about the doing of the <sup>s</sup> ~~stupendous~~ <sup>alleged</sup> air fleet. Berlin ~~was~~ silent on the subject. During the hours of light today, London had a comparative lull from ~~air~~ raiding. The reason - the weather was wet and stormy, <sup>bad</sup> ~~the worse kind~~ for flying.

There's a sharp contradiction ~~in~~ the stories of a naval fight. First, the Germans reported that a squadron of their destroyers encountered British warships in the Bristol Channell, and torpedoed one of them, the ~~Bristol~~ Channel which leads to the

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*Cardiff and Bristol.*  
great harbors of ~~Bristol and Cardiff~~ London reported later on that the engagement occurred a hundred miles southwest of Land's End, which is out in the Atlantic. The British Admiralty describes the battle in these words:- "A slight brush." The story is that British cruisers sighted German destroyers at long range. There was an exchange of fire, and some bombing by *and then* planes. <sup>^</sup> The German destroyers fled to the harbor of Brest.

The British don't know what damage they may have inflicted on the Germans, and roundly deny that any cruiser of theirs was torpedoed.

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*out* in Asia, ~~that~~ Burma Road is being bombed. The Japanese are carrying out the threat they made that they would blast ~~the~~ *winding* <sup>TP</sup> ~~important~~ *tortuous* highway when it was opened by the British. Traffic in war supplies to China was begun yesterday, and Tokyo states that within a few hours the Mikado's war planes were hitting at vital points on the Chinese side. They bombed the Chinese terminus at the Burma frontier, and flung high explosive at various bridges - of which the Burma Road has many. Tokyo states that a number of bridges were knocked out. (Where the planes came from is not stated, but undoubtedly they flew from the airfields the Japanese obtained in French Indo-China, airfields not so far from the Burma Road.

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DIES

The Dies Committee issued a statement this afternoon about the German Consul in New York - Friedhelm Draeger. There have been accusations that this German Consul has been engaged in propaganda, sabotage and espionage activities in this country. The Dies Committee now declares that it has proof that Consul Draeger has been active in establishing an arm of the Nazi Party in the United States, that he gave instructions to the German-American Bund and urged loyalty to Hitler. As for sabotage and espionage, the Dies Committee refuses to say whether or not it believes the German Consul has been guilty of any such activities.

## CONSCRIPTION

President Roosevelt today signed a bill for the benefit of men drafted under the Selective Service Law - a bill to relieve them of various financial obligations while they are in the army. They'll have a moratorium on the payment of debts in various categories - like rent, mortgages, taxes, insurance, instalment contracts. The courts are authorized to defer payment under certain conditions - defer payment until the draftees have done their bit and are discharged from the army.

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The phenomenon of conscientious objection produced an odd case today. In Philadelphia, Sturge Steinert, aged twenty-one, refused to register. Instead he wrote a letter to the Selective Service Board and told why he was refusing. He said he was a conscientious objector in the matter of fighting and killing. Now, ~~the~~ a rather paradoxical thing is that this same Sturge Steinert won an American Legion Scholarship by writing an essay on the following subject - "The Rights and Duties of an American Citizen under the Constitution." At present he's studying at Temple University, on the American Legion Scholarship that he won.

In Colorado, some kind of conscientious objection has

started a hunt in a wild area of mountains. Officials and

scouts are looking for twenty braves of the Ute tribe.

*warriors are liable*

*These*  
~~They're~~

~~liable~~ to service under the Conscription Law, but refuse to

register. Instead, they fled into the mountains under the command

of their chief - Jack House. Just how the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ conscience

of the Indians is affected by selective service is not at all clear.

The redskins are not famous for any moral ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

scruples on the subject of fighting. What the tribesmen objected

to for some obscure reason or order - was the presence of witnesses.

That's the only reason they gave - "witnesses." Maybe there is

some old tribal tradition, according to which there weren't

supposed to be any witnesses around when the braves started out

on a scalping expedition.



POLITICS

There was a brisk exchange of political punches today, with President Roosevelt launching the charge that his opponent is deliberately misrepresenting the issues of the campaign. "Falsifications of fact," was the expression the President used. He made the accusation really as an explanation - to account for the reason <sup>why</sup> ~~that~~ he is going to hit the political trail with five big electioneering speeches. ~~The explanation~~ Hitherto it has been the White House position that the President would not do any active campaigning, because he'd be so busy with the war crisis.

Today at the White House press conference, President Roosevelt presented a statement to the newspaper men. The statement reverted to a passage in the F.D.R. acceptance speech to the Democratic Convention when he accepted the third term nomination. At that time he said:- "I shall not have the time or the inclination to engage in any purely political debate. But," he added, "I shall never be loath to call the attention of the nation to deliberate or unwitting falsifications of fact."

The White House statement quoted that today, and continued as follows:- "There has been in this campaign, however,

a systematic program of falsification of fact by the opposition.

The President," the statement added, "does not believe that it

has been an unwitting falsification of fact. He believes it is a

deliberate ~~falsification of fact~~. He has therefore decided ~~to~~ ~~the~~

~~tell the American people what these misrepresentations have been~~

~~and in what respects they are false.~~ With that purpose in mind,"

the statement concludes, "the President will make five speeches

between now and election day."

He was asked what these falsifications of fact might be, but declined to make any comment. He will do that in those five campaign speeches.

From the Republican side, we have, naturally enough, a different explanation of the five speeches. The G.O.P. launches a campaign punch with the contention that F.D.R. is taking the stump because he feels he has got to. Because the third term campaign is slipping. Republican National Chairman, Representative Joe Martin, used the word - "jittery". He says the New Deal

forces are jittery because of the evidence of a national swing ~~toward~~ toward Willkie. Hence the last minute decision to have a blast of presidential campaigning - so says the G.O.P.

CAMPAIGN

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Today at a congressional hearing in Washington, charges were made against the third term campaign, statements that W.P.A. workers in New York City are being intimidated. At today's hearing ~~by~~ the Senate Campaign Expenditures Committee, one of the witnesses was Richard McKibben of the Workers Alliance. He accused what he called "Democratic ward healers." He said they had been mobilized to persuade the W.P.A. workers in New York to vote the third term way. He said <sup>relief workers</sup> ~~they~~ were being intimidated. He also made charges against an organization headed by David Lasser, who used to be President of the Workers Alliance. Lasser, he said, was distributing in the mails letters signed by President Roosevelt. He intimated that the Hatch Act was being violated - the law designed to eliminate corrupt practices from politics. David Lasser at the hearing called this - "a vicious lie."

Charges of W.P.A. intimidation were continued by William Levner, President of the W.P.A. Teachers Union. He used these words:- "An unparalleled campaign of intimidation, espionage and persecution." He testified that hundreds of W.P.A. workers are being summoned and questioned about their political position,

how they are going to vote.

Another witness was Howard Hunter, Acting W.P.A. Director.

He took the stand and denied charges that the relief rolls are being padded to make third term votes. He said there has been a small increase of W.P.A. employment for this month, the month preceding election, but declared that the increase will not make the W.P.A. rolls unduly large. In proportion, he stated, they are at a lower level than during the past.

CRIME

In New York, at last reports - the great prison break had not occurred. Last night and today two jails in the New York area were under heavy and vigilant guard, the Raymond Street jail in Brooklyn and the Richmond County Prison on Staten Island.

The reason for the elaborate precaution was a tip - information that two coordinated prison breaks were to be staged in one of the most daring ~~breaks~~ <sup>prison attacks</sup> ever attempted by the underworld.

In the Brooklyn and Staten Island prisons are confined gangsters who are scheduled to testify against some of the biggest racketeers in the realm of crooks. Specifically - Murder Incorporated. ~~The police have smashed that syndicate of organized killers. There have been many arrests and a number of confessions, gunmen squealing. Already in several headline trials a series of big shots of Murder Incorporated have been convicted and sentenced to the electric chair - their own gangsters testifying against them. Still other big shots are awaiting trial, with squealers ~~waiting~~ <sup>ready</sup> to give deadly evidence on the witness stand.~~ Right now two of the most important gunmen of

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Murder Incorporated have been talking and telling - "singing", as the underworld calls it. They have been singing a song of doom for ace racketeers. So the underworld is desperate with the desire to silence them, and keep them from warbling their ballad of crime on the witness stand.

The story goes that a detective got a tip from a stool pigeon, who informed him that the mobsters of the racket had laid a plan for an attack on the ~~two~~<sup>big</sup> prisons. It was to work this way:- Minor gangsters would get themselves arrested in Brooklyn and Staten Island. According to routine, they'd be taken to the ~~two~~<sup>2</sup> county jails - taken in prison vans. As a prison van entered the precincts of the jail, waiting gangster cars would dash in after ~~them~~<sup>it</sup>. In ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> blaze of gunfire, the mob would storm the jail, and release prisoners - with special attention for the squealers.

The information given in the tip didn't specify whether those ~~squealers~~ squealers would be kidnapped and taken away or whether they'd be killed in the prison.

Such was the startling story the police got. They hardly knew whether to think it was a hoax, a pipe dream, or the real thing. <sup>But</sup> They were taking no chances. Hence, the heavy guard placed over the two prisons last night and today. Maybe the extra guard is the reason nothing has happened - thus far.

## AUTO SHOW

Here's a question - what is it that makes a motorist mad the most? What are the pet peeves of all us automobile drivers?

At the New York Automobile Show, they undertook to provide an answer. They took a poll of some five thousand visitors, and the prize for being a pest goes to the road hog. The motorists turned thumbs down most enthusiastically on the guy who tries to monopolize the road and doesn't let you get past ~~him~~ - as you drive briskly with a tankful of Nu-Blue Sunoco.

Next in the order of nuisance, comes the driver who cuts in without warning. The careless pedestrian<sup>s</sup> rank high, the fellow who goes fluttering across the highway with his eyes shut apparently.

Then there's emphasis on inadequate direction signs - you know, the kind of roadside markers that stop you dead in sheer confusion.

They also rank high among the things that make a motorist mad.



HEARING

58 { There's nothing I like better than those new discoveries in science, but here's one to give any radio man the creeps.

A scientist comes forward with the discovery that the human race is gradually ~~loosing~~ losing its sense of hearing - turning deaf.

And ~~How~~ could a fellow go <sup>on</sup> talking on the radio if nobody could hear any more?

58/2 At the University of Texas, Dr. Boner, a scientist of sound, declares that the world is so full of increasing noise that the human ear drum is becoming insensitive - covered with callouses, I suppose. According to Dr. Boner, the world is becoming so loud that pretty soon we won't be able to hear anything. Dr. Boner expresses it thusly:- "In the good old days when folks just sat around and talked," said he, "conversation was carried on at about 'seventy decibles. Today," he adds, "radios are run at eighty or ninety decibles and conversation must be even louder." So he figures that if things go on like that, we won't be able to make conversation loud enough for it to be heard. ~~We~~ won't be able to steam up enough decible<sup>s</sup>. Nobody will be able to hear anything. Well, it certainly sounds

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ominous to a radio broadcaster. But who knows, maybe Dr. Boner has pulled - well, what shall I say? A mistake!

Now Hugh don't you pull a boner!