

CONFERENCE

L.I. - Sunoco Wednesday, August 18, 1943

All day today, in the old historic citadel of Quebec the conferences went on ^{at} high pressure. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill took time out only to attend a luncheon given by the Earl of Athlone, Governor General of Canada. After greeting the President at a big reception last night the Earl ~~is~~ had planned to go immediately back to Ottawa, but he cancelled that arrangement and stayed over - to entertain at luncheon today.

The ceremonies of state are to include a trip to Ottawa by the President. Secretary Steve Early stated today that he will go to Canada's capital early next week, as a guest of Prime Minister MacKenzie King. And we hear that the Canadian Parliament may be summoned into session to meet the Chief Executive of the United States.

One arrival at Quebec today was British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, and the news men took space in the Press dispatches to relate that the Foreign Secretary arrived not so well dressed as usual -- he is famous for his sartorial perfection.

Eden was brought ashore in a naval launch and today the St.

Lawrence river was rough -- whipped up by a heavy wind. As the launch pulled into the pier it almost crashed head on, and ^{Anthony Eden} ~~he~~ nearly went overboard. He grabbed a stanchion and then jumped ashore. It was ~~not~~ wet and splashy going, and he was drenched ^{the British For. Sec.} to the knees, soaked and soggy. ~~was~~ an unusual arrival for the best dressed diplomat in Europe.

Secretary of State Cordell Hull is to arrive later - to represent the American diplomatic side, while Eden represents the British. All of which increases the rumors that matters of high world politics have a prominent place in the Roosevelt-Churchill conferences. For example, the Americans and British have to consider repeated intimations from ~~Germany~~ Germany that some sort of Nazi overturn is in the wind. Today a German broadcast gave the hint that Germany might be willing to toss out some of the extreme Nazis to make peace with the Allies -- and this may be a preliminary to some Nazi scheme ^{and} window-dressing ^{for} in a peace offensive.

We hear likewise that Italian Marshall Bagoglio has sent diplomatic word concerning Rome as an open city -- to stop the

bombings. The word is that the specifications offered by Hadoglio for the demilitarizing of Rome do not square with the ideas of the Allied commanders.

Such are the conjectures at Quebec -- in the guessing game concerning the deliberations of the President and Prime Minister.

AIR WAR

Last night the warplanes of the R.A.F. assaulted what might well be the most strategic point that bombers ever hit.

On the Baltic Sea, along the shore of the Prussian Province of Pomerania, there was a huge industrial establishment aptly called - a mystery plant. It was a great research laboratory, dedicated to the discovery and development of new scientific magic for war. The mystery plant specialized ~~in~~ in radio appliances for use in aviation - methods of detecting hostile aircraft, locating them and aiming guns at them. Its work was kept darkly secret, but we may suppose that it was along the lines of Radar.

We all know that this is a technological conflict, -- which science on either side may lose or win; - and there is no technical point more important than the employment of the wizardries of radio in the war of the air. So the mystery plant on the Baltic was indeed a number one nerve center of the Nazi war machine - brain cell, you might call it, and ~~this~~ this was the R.A.F. target last night.

The flight was a long one, away over to the Baltic, a twelve hundred mile round trip. And, naturally enough, the mystery plant was one of the most powerfully defended targets in Germany. ~~The advantage of~~ The R.A.F. squadron ^{had} ~~was the weather,~~ the brightest of moonlight, what they call a bomber's moon. ^{and} That enabled them to hit the target squarely, ~~and~~ The secret research laboratories were SM ~~smashed~~ by a deluge of high explosive. They blasted that nerve center, that brain cell, with precision bombing, ~~aiming with the accuracy of the sharpshooting flying fortress of the United States.~~ ^{Fifteen hundred} Tons of demolition and ~~incendiary~~ incendiary bombs shattered the haunt of Nazi war science, and left it blazing like a volcano.

The importance of the target may be estimated by the cost of hitting it. Forty-one R.A.F. bombers were lost, the heaviest loss since the giant raid on the night of June twenty-first when forty-four planes failed to return. Today R.A.F. officers in London stated that the smashing of the mystery plant was such a blow to German war technology that it justified the heavy loss.

And, This was only one blow in a whole series that were launched during a period of twenty-four hours. Sixteen separate raids, night and day, were staged by the British and American Air forces - round-the-clock raids in which three thousand planes took part.

Berlin was hit again, the Nazi capital blasted by a swarm of speedy Mosquito bombers - the kind that whirl in so fast and skim so low it's almost impossible to get a shot at them. Last night they rained bombs on war ~~industries~~ industries in the Nazi capital.

Also, Today the United States Air Force carried on - with the greatest raids that American bombers based on Britain have ever launched. Nazi war centers like Regensburg and an industrial area near Frankfurt were blasted. And then the American Flying Fortresses, having flown south from Britain to bomb, kept on flying south. They winged on to North Africa - and thereby started an American shuttle service, such as the R.A.F. already has in operation - Britain to North Africa and

back, and drop your bombs on the way.

We are told that the multiple air blows were arranged in pattern - a complex plan of devastation designed to cripple German war industry by hitting it from the first step of manufacture to the finished product - beginning at the very earliest beginning, the mystery plant where secret research was being done.

Italy

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This morning word came from Italy that later in the day Marshal Badoglio would deliver a radio address to Sicily - would talk to the people of the conquered island. What would he say? That was an interesting question all day. Some surmised that Badoglio, ~~him~~ on the heels of the dramatic Allied victory in Sicily, would say something significant about the peace, something pertaining to Italy getting out of the war.

Nothing of the sort. ~~But~~ Badoglio's broadcast to Sicily was given a couple of hours ago, and turned out to be nothing more than a rather pathetic sort of lamentation by an ~~an~~ old man. By two old men, in fact - for the seventy-two year old Badoglio was joined in the radio broadcast by the former Italian Premier, Orlando, who ~~is~~ is eighty-three. Orlando was Premier at Rome during the First World War, and was forced out of office because the Italians were dissatisfied with the quality of the spoils they got out of the war. Orlando was against Fascism, ^{and} made a fight against the power of Mussolini. This he did until Nineteen ^{Twenty} ~~Twenty~~-Five, when he was forced out of politics. Now the eighty-three year old veteran returns to the spotlight - joining Badoglio at the microphone in the hour

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of Italy's defeat.

Badoglio did nothing more than commiserate with what he called "my beloved brothers in martyred Sicily". That was rather ironical, because the beloved ~~xxx~~ brothers seem to be overjoyed by the allied occupation, and don't consider themselves martyrs at all.

Orlando, speaking in a feeble voice, reminded the Sicilians that they had never willingly yielded to Fascism, and said he was proud of them. I suppose he meant that the Sicilians ~~xxxx~~ never yielded to Fascism as willingly as they yielded to the British and American armies.

We hear prompt reactions to the broadcast - Italian ~~re~~ reactions. Switzerland says the Italian people are deeply disappointed - dangerously disappointed. They expected Badoglio to talk peace, and say something about getting ~~ix~~ Italy out of the war. At Genoa, for example, there ^{were} turbulent peace

~~xxxx~~ demonstrations earlier in the day. These quieted down when it was heard that Badoglio was going to talk on the air - and when his broadcast was heard, the disappointment was deep. Dangerous - says Switzerland. It was the same all over Italy -

people waiting ~~not~~ eagerly for the broadcast in the hope that it would say something about peace. Disappointment afterward - with a likelihood of new and greater ^{un}disturbances.

On the military side of the news, the most significant item ^{tells us} ~~of this states~~ that the Germans apparently are abandoning southern Italy. They are evacuating the tip of the Peninsula just opposite the tip of Sicily, and are pulling northward.

The Germans are even said to be proceeding by boat - preferring to take their chances with the allied ~~bx~~ bombing along the coast, rather than risk the roads. These are under the heaviest kind of bombardment, which has cut them to bits.

All day long, American bombers smashed communication routes along the shore opposite Sicily, ^{and} heavy artillery, based on the tip near Messina, pounded the Italian mainland, trading shots with cannon on the other side. All signs point to new prompt allied landings with the Germans abandoning southern Italy.

The British joined the Americans today in captured Messina, just as a final move in a game that was already over. Messina, itself is a scene of tumbled down havoc, the whole place

shattered by the days of continuing air bombing. Long after the American troops made their first entry, thousands of people still hid away in air raid shelters. They didn't know that it was all over, and thought the bombers might arrive again at any time. When they found out the real state of affairs they poured out of the shelters wildly excited, cheering the allied troops. One armored R.A.F. car, passing through the city, was mobbed by at least twenty-five thousand people who were thronging out of a tunnel. They swarmed around the ~~car~~ car, and the British airmen in it couldn't go on, ^{overwhelmed} ~~defeated~~ by the popular ovation.

Today General Eisenhower summarized the victory. He stated that the enemy lost a hundred and sixty-seven thousand men, killed, wounded, or captured - the captured amounting to a hundred and thirty-five thousand, mostly Italians. Eisenhower stated that the Germans had seventy-five thousand men in Sicily at the beginning of the campaign. Of these six or seven thousand were captured, and twenty-four thousand killed or wounded. The rest escaped - but it is not known how many lost their lives in the perilous passage under fire. . With such casualties, ~~included~~

unofficial estimates are inclined to place the total enemy loss ^{as in Sicily} as high as two hundred thousand.

Our ^{own} losses in the Sicilian campaign amount ^{to} ~~at~~ twenty-five thousand men killed, wounded or captured. And General Eisenhower told today of another kind of American casualty which ~~isn't~~ doesn't appear in the official lists. He described the tremendous marching that our troops did, and ~~it~~ said that many had to be taken to hospitals because they had worn off the soles of their feet. That's how hard the marching was.

In point of equipment, the Axis lost two hundred and sixty tanks, five hundred and two big guns, and sixteen hundred and ninety-one planes - shot down or captured on the ground. We lost two hundred and seventy-four planes.

RUSSIA

The latest from Soviet Russia states that the Red Army has renewed its general advance in front of Kharkov.

Renewed - is the word because the Nazis launched a series of heavy counter attacks. They threw their reserves into the fight, assaulting the Soviet forces with masses of armor, guns, and men. Moscow says the counter-attacks were beaten off in the most violent kind of fighting. And now the ~~xx~~ Red Army advance toward Kharkov has been resumed.

SHORTS

~~Here are several oddities in the news, items on the lighter side.~~

At Buffalo today, Jake Feldman was brought into court and charged with what used to be a familiar crime - speeding. The cop charged him with buzzing through town at forty-three miles an hour. This Jake denied, and said it was impossible.

"Your Honor, take a look at my car", he argued. "That car is so old and broken down, it couldn't go that fast." *Then he added, "Why You Honor, you could fill it up with Sunoco, and it wouldn't go forty-three miles an hour. Impossible, your Honor!" Take sure knows his gasolines.*

Whereupon the cop spoke up and said: "If I do forty-three miles an hour ⁱⁿ ~~car~~ your car, Jake, will you sell it to me for a dollar?"

Jake slowly shook his head, and the Judge promptly remarked, "guilty".

~~Item number two concerns that always sentimental theme - a honeymoon.~~

~~Out in Colorado, Private Mike Rampa got a furlough to get married. His commanding officer gave him six hours - which~~

And here's one on the theme of correct English. On one of the South Pacific islands occupied by the Marines, there is a British school for natives. The teacher is an Englishwoman, as prim and dignified as English school teachers are likely to be. She instructs the dusky youngsters of a tropical tribe, and sent the class to the camp of the Marines to get some practice in talking English.

The next morning when the pupils gathered in ~~in the schoolhouse~~ in the schoolhouse, an eleven year old fuzzy-wuzzy boy walked up to the teacher and said: "Hi ya, Babe, What's cookin'?"

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Hi Ya, Hugh, what's cookin'?