

CONFERENCE

P.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Aug. 24, 1943.

This afternoon's Quebec declaration reveals one most important thing. Rumors about the conference have been featuring suppositions that the President and Prime Minister were concentrating on the war in the Pacific. This was given as a reason why Soviet Russia was not represented at the conferences - the Soviets not being at war with Japan.

The statement issued this afternoon says: "The military discussions of the Chiefs of Staff turned very largely upon the war against Japan and the bringing of effective aid to China. Mr. T. V. Soong, representative of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek", the statement goes on, "was a party to the discussions". So China was represented, but not Russia.

~~The~~ ^A statement ^{however} ~~goes on to~~ ^S mention the possibility of a conference in which Stalin and the Soviets may participate - it is hoped. Another Anglo-American meeting is to be held before the end of the year - presumably Roosevelt-Churchill. And, perhaps, there may be in addition a three-cornered affair, to which the statement refers in the following words: "Any tripartite meeting which it may be possible to arrange with Soviet Russia".

Quebec
As for the conference that now closes, Stalin is

to be informed about the decisions made - so far as these do not concern Japan and the Pacific. The statement is discreetly particular on this matter, saying: "Full reports of the ~~decisions~~ decisions, so far as they affect the war against Germany and Italy, will be furnished to the Soviet government". For the conference made plans to launch new blows in Europe, as well as in the Pacific.

And reference is made to that vexed question the French, the French committee of liberation in North Africa. Shall it, or shall it not, be recognized as the legitimate government of France? The conference declaration states that the matter was considered, and adds: "It is understood that an announcement by a number of governments will be made in the latter part of the week". Some sort of recognition promised, apparently.

And the statement this afternoon brings the Quebec Conference to an end, and all that remains in that direction is

for the President to go to Ottawa and give an address ^{before} ~~at~~ the

Parliament of Canada, which ~~is~~ he is to do tomorrow. Moreover,

^{also} there ^{is} to be a Roosevelt-Churchill radio address.

Berlin

The Battle of Berlin has really begun, The Nazi capital has been bombed repeatedly before, but it would seem that last night's tremendous assault was the true initiation in the attempt to turn Berlin into another Hamburg. Repeatedly, the Allies have promised to destroy Hitler's humber one city as utterly as they did Germany's ~~gri~~ great seaport. And now the job is starting - the Hamburging of Berlin.

This is to be inferred from several factors given in the news today. There was, to begin with, the magnitude of the assault. Two thousand tons of bombs were dropped, all the way from incendiaries to enormous four-ton super-~~bomb~~^{-block}busters. Four square miles of the teutonic metropolis were hit with saturation bombing. Enormous ~~fit~~ fires, which hurled smoke fifteen thousand feet into the sky, raged in the heart of Berlin. The glow of the inferno of flame was visible two hundred and fifty miles away. The assault was twice as heavy as ~~any~~^{any} that the German capital endured before, and was four times the weight of the biggest assault on London during the blitz.

It is presumed that seven hundred bombers took part in last night's monster attack. This is based on a London statement which says that five thousand airmen flew to Berlin. It is estimated that the ~~number~~ bombers, Halifaxes, Lancasters and Sterlings, carried an average of seven airmen each. Divide seven into five thousand and you have approximately seven hundred - a probable figure for the planes.

The second fact to indicate that this is the real battle of Berlin is to be found in the figure for the loss of bombers. It is a record figure. Fifty-eight planes failed ^{ing} to return, the ~~greatest~~ greatest loss the R.A.F. has ever sustained on ^{any} ~~X~~ raid. The reason was, not anti-aircraft fire, but German night fighters. The bombers of Berlin say the flak was comparatively light, but they never saw so many ~~fighter~~ fighter planes come after them in the darkness. It would seem that Berlin deliberately withheld anti-aircraft fire because so many of its own fighters were aloft. They operated in the glow of searchlights, and they used the landing lights of their planes to sight the allied bombers. Once the ~~the~~ assault was really under way, however, the glare from fires

on the ground was enough. The R.A.F. pilots say the sky was lighted almost as if it were daytime - lighted by the glare of the flames far below. And in this fearful kind of daylight, *innum-*
erable
air battles were fought.

The Germans knew the aerial drive to ~~H~~amburg Berlin was coming, and they were set to meet it - with night fighters. We have been hearing that Nazi aircraft construction was concentrating on fighter planes, as a means of combating the bombing of Germany. This seemed to have been borne out last night, with the Germans launching their full fighter strength for the beginning of the battle of Berlin.

We hear that the German capital is being evacuated systematically and that the exodus is already well on the way.

The word is that of Berlin's population of four-and-a-half million, one and a half million people have already gone.

Another sign that the enemy is aware of the critical hour for the German capital - the Battle of Berlin.

An obvious meaning is to be attached to the news of the shake-up of the Nazi administration in Germany. Himmler becomes Minister of the Interior, Himmler, the ruthless head of the dreaded Gestapo. This means that virtually all ^{Germany now goes} ~~Germany now goes~~ under the direct rule of the Hitler Secret Police. Himmler, Hitler - two evil birds of a feather, or at least of similar names.

In Germany the Ministry of Interior has such sweeping authority that Himmler, the Gestapo Chief, governs every phase of life ~~in~~ of the inhabitants of Naziland. This is taken to mean that Hitler is tightening his tyranny to suppress discontent and possible sedition - as the war looks worse and worse for Germany, and as the bombs rain down on Berlin to which the Nazi answer is - - Himmler, Hitler.

One analogy is immediately suggested. Some short while before his downfall, Mussolini similarly shook up the Fascist administration in Italy, in ~~an~~ an effort to strengthen his control of the country. And look what happened to the Duce, nevertheless. Fascism in Italy never exercised the relentless power of the Nazi

despotism in Germany, but the analogy is eloquent - the dictatorships trying to tighten their control as things ~~become~~ become shaky for them.

RUSSIA

In Russia, the Soviet forces are advancing on that historic place called Poltava. That's where in a great battle of times gone by, the Russian Peter the Great defeated Sweden's Conqueror, Charles the Twelfth. Today Poltava^a is an important military point in southern Russia, and the Soviet advance is rolling that way. After the fall of Kharkov, the Red Army simply kept going. More towns and villages have been recaptured, and the German positions at Poltava are threatened - a fact that gives promise of a speedy Soviet reconquest of the Donets Basin, which was one of Russia's great industrial areas.



ROME

The Italian government is communicating with the Allies on the subject of Rome as an open city. This was stated today by the Rome radio, which related that the Italian government had asked the Vatican and Switzerland to notify the United States and Great Britain that Rome is being stripped of anything that might be of military importance.

The headquarters of the German and Italian military command are being moved from the city. Fortifications and defenses are being put out of commission. Orders have been issued that no resistance shall be made to allied warplanes that fly over Rome. And this reminds us of Italian stories which say that allied planes have flown over and dropped pamphlets recently.

The most important angle seems to be the railroad, Rome being the number one center and bottleneck of the Italian railroad system. We are told that the Roman yards ~~and~~ and sidings will no longer be used for military purposes - no loading or unloading or switching of military trains. Today's broadcast stated that the railroad junction at Rome will be ~~down~~ reduced to what it called "simply a transit line". One doesn't ~~know~~ know just what

that means. Does it signify that military trains will still pass through - in transit? That would seem to be a question which the allies would want answered.

~~There is no American-British reaction yet concerning the declaration of Rome as an open city, but presumably the United Nations would want to be shown. One might say paradoxically that the United Nations are from Missouri. The~~

~~The~~ logical thing would be to have the demilitarization of Rome vouched for by neutral observers - probably Swiss. On ~~the~~ the ~~the~~ other hand, allied quarters in London make the remark that such an arrangement would take time, so much time that it would probably be academic - since it is likely that the Eternal City will be in the possession of the Allies before all the diplomatic ~~formal~~ formalities could be worked out.

HAWAII

Out in Hawaii there is a row on between the civil and military authorities - and today a judge held the Army Commander of Hawaii in contempt of court. Federal Judge Delbert ~~W.~~ Metzger took this action against Lieutenant - General Robert C. Richardson.

At the time of Pearl Harbor, martial law was declared in Hawaii and the military authorities announced that the writ of habeas corpus was suspended - that ~~constitutional~~ constitutional provision which requires that no citizen may be imprisoned and ~~held~~ held without due process of law. And at that time two American citizens of German extraction were arrested and interned, since then they have been appealing for a writ of habeas corpus.

In this case ^{Fed.} Judge Metzger ~~has~~ has ruled that even though a state of war ~~is~~ exists, it does not authorize the suspension of habeas corpus. ^{Army Commander} Lieutenant General Richardson, refused to accept the decision, and the Judge today declared the Lieutenant-General in contempt of court.

SPIES

Tonight we have a sensational war-time spy story, and ^{it's} ~~that is~~ grim, sinister business - the punishment for espionage in war being death. But this tale of enemy secret agents has elements of thrill-story-romance that remind you of a mystery novel or a lurid ~~motion picture~~ motion picture feature. This - because of the women in the case. The feminine ~~element~~ element is, in fact, predominant. Tonight six persons are in custody, four on charges of espionage and two arrested as dangerous enemy aliens - and of the six four are women. One - a dazzling Canadian beauty, said to be a countess. Another - a German titled noblewoman, also a German Countess. Two Countesses in one story - what more could you want?

The dazzling beauty is the key to the whole thing. She figures, not only in espionage, but also in counter-espionage - she worked not only for the Nazi Gestapo, but also for the F.B.I. Dazzling is the word.

Today J. Edgar Hoover of the F.B. I. told the story as follows: The gorgeous girl of espionage is Grace Buchanan - Dineen, who was born in Canada and is a descendant of French nobility. They say she rates as a Countess. She, in the summer

of Nineteen Forty-One, was in Budapest, Capital of Hungary. And there she struck up an acquaintance with a Hungarian woman named Sari Dehajak, who had spent a lot of time in the United States - and in fact, had enjoyed ^{quite} ~~quite~~ a fine career over here.

Sari Dehajak as ^{an} ~~a~~ Hungarian exchange student, graduated from Vassar, and then proceeded to lecture in the United States on ~~Hungarian~~ folklore. It turned out that this Vassar graduate and lecturer on folklore was also a Nazi spy. She had a German husband, a former Captain in the German Army who worked in a war plant at San Francisco. He did espionage, and after a while was arrested and deported, - that being peacetime, before we entered the war.

In Budapest the Vassar graduate and lecturer of folklore, talked persuavely to Grace Buchanan-Dineen, the dazzling beauty, and recruited her for Nazi spy work in the United States. The lovely lady took a Gestapo course in the art of the Secret Agent, and went to Lisbon, where she was given last minute instruction by the German naval attache at the Portuguese capital. Then she crossed the ocean by trans-Atlantic clipper and arrived in the United States just before Pearl Harbor. So now her task was war-time -