

L.J. Sumoco. Friday, Aug. 16, 1940.

A new chapter was added to military history today. Perhaps it ^{will} ~~will~~ be only a paragraph, or maybe just a sentence, for the historian of the year two thousand and forty. But it certainly sounds like a ^{whole} ~~a~~ chapter tonight.

About noon today, bells rang furiously on the teletype printers in every newspaper office in America, the bells that herald the coming of a bulletin of spectacular importance. A second later it came. A gigantic German armada of the air was on its way for a second attack on London. This attack was to make yesterday's raid look like a tea party. From that time on, bulletins ~~xxxx~~ kept pouring in. First that Hitler's armada

had reached the air over the ~~xxxx~~ estuary of the Thames, next that it was over London, ^{a vast armada of the air battling} and was dogfighting with ~~xxx~~ Royal Air Force hurricanes and spitfires that ^{leapt into the air} had sprung up to meet.

^{to head of the Germans.} ~~It.~~ Next came word that the Nazi raiders had swept all

opposition out of the skies, cleared the air over London and were raining fire and destruction upon arsenals, warehouses, docks, oil depots, everything within sight.

Now, The extraordinary part of that news was that not a word ^{of all this} ~~to that effect~~ came from London. All those bulletins came

~~from~~ from Berlin. The Nazi high command had adopted the
astounding policy of ^{giving the} ~~telling that~~ whole world ^{a running} ~~about that raid,~~
^{account,}
announcing its objectives, declaring in specific terms just what
they were setting out to do, ^{and describing the battle,} It was proclaimed, among other
things, that ~~xx&~~ this armada was manned by seven hundred and
fifty of the crack pilots of Air Marshal Goering's fleets. And
from then on, the official news agency and the German broadcast
actually ^{poured out} ~~gave their people~~ a constant stream of bulletins about
that raid, describing it almost blow by blow, as though it were
a prizefight.

As the triumphant Nazi ^{came over the} ~~crowings about that raid~~
^{air,} London maintained a prolonged silence. ^{TR} Editors
of ~~xxx~~ New York newspapers and wire services ~~xxxxx~~ began
bombarding their London officer with queries; "What ~~xxx~~ about
that Nazi raid over London?" No answer! As late as four
o'clock this afternoon, Eastern Daylight Time, the London
representative of the National Broadcasting Company came on the
air with a statement that ~~xxx~~ not a bomb had dropped over
London! ^{TR} Evidently, ~~the~~ British censorship was ~~still~~ ^{ed} clamping
down ^{tight.}

between 4:30 + 5:00,

About half an hour later, the British authorities

loosened up and admitted that a great fleet of German raiders

had swept up the Thames, over London, and had bombed the great

docks of Tilbury. But, added the British Ministry, the Nazis

had not been able to penetrate into the heart of ^{London,} ~~the metropolis.~~

Most of the bombs, according to British accounts, were dropped

^{on} ~~over~~ residential quarters, in the ~~xxxxxxx~~ southwest of London,

regions inhabited mostly by workers and poor people, ~~Regions~~

are not far from the military barracks of Aldershot and the

power station at Battersea.

It is ^{indeed} ~~certainly~~ something new in the history of warfare

for a commanding general to tell the ~~whole~~ world about an attack

he had ordered, ^{and then gives out a detailed} ~~with such minute~~ accounts, of its progress. But,

^{IT But,} ~~as matters turned out~~, it would appear, from ~~xxxx~~ impartial

^{our correspondents over there,} American accounts, that the German version of ~~the raid was~~

^{of today's air battle was} exaggerated. For instance, American correspondents report that

a person standing in Piccadilly Circus, the heart of London,

at the ~~nxxx~~ height of ~~xxx~~ that German attack, could neither

see any raiders nor hear any gunfire. But at the same ~~time~~ ^{moment}

the German radios ^{was} ~~were~~ ^{to the world} proclaiming that Goering's raiders had

devastated, literally devastated, the harbor of London, that German planes were ~~dancing~~ ^{swarming} over the metropolis and that huge fires blazed on both sides of the Thames. American correspondents report that no such huge fires are in evidence.

British officials have an explanation for these Nazi propaganda ~~tactics~~ ^{outpouring.} They believe that the exciting tale told over the Berlin radio was aimed by ~~Hitler~~ at Spain and Japan.

Its purpose, ~~was~~ to convince Franco and the Mikado's high

command that Hitler is annihilating the British and therefore ^{that}

it's high time for the Japanese and the Spanish to join ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ

^{badly mauled} ~~war~~ and jump on the ~~back of the~~ British Lion.

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The Germans at least are specific about the number of planes which they say were involved on their side. For instance, they ridicule the statement that in yesterday's battle more than a thousand planes were engaged. Precisely five hundred and twenty raided London yesterday, seven hundred and fifty today.

^{estimate}
The ~~estimate from~~ British news sources ~~is~~ that somewhere between two thousand and twenty-five hundred Nazi planes were over Britain today, which ~~the Germans will probably deny tomorrow.~~ In addition to the raid over London, there were

R.A.F.

Another bombing raid over Italy:- Squadrons of the Royal Air Force made another long flight over the Alps last night and again dropped bombs on the great Fiat works of Turin and the Caproni Aircraft plant at Milan. The pilots reported that their aims have been accurate and that there were great fires and explosions. Another R.A.F. squadron bombed the great North Italian seaport of Genoa.

Still another British bomber squadron made a visit to Nazi naval bases in Holland and airdromes in France. And, they also left damage behind them at some ten different places in Germany where they bombed great war plants, munition factories, supply depots.

ADD R.A.F.

~~and today~~ Bombers of the Royal Air Force took
^{today}
off from Cairo and made a quick, ~~five~~ fierce raid on Bomba,

Mussolini's seaplane base on the Adriatic, halfway up
the ~~east~~ boot of Italy. The bombing of Bomba, ~~that~~ Sounds

appropriate. The R.A.F. pilots report that their raid was a

^{complete} highly successful. ^{The word also comes} ~~At the same time, they announce that~~

~~— retaliated —~~
Italian planes made an attack on Britain's base at Alexandria.

SOMALILAND

On one front, the British ^{are} admit ^{ting a} definite set-back,
That is, in ⁱⁿ British Somaliland. The military situation there is
described at London in official language as rather critical, and
it looks as if the defenders of Somaliland may have to fall

back on Berbera. ^{ago} A couple of days the reports from East Africa
were ~~more~~ ^{particularly} hopeful after a British Naval detachment crossed over

from Aden and bombarded the Italian ^s ^{as they} ^{ed} contingent advancing along

^{the coast.}

~~Berbera from Zeila.~~ But, today the story is that the Italian ^s are

~~troops both on the coast and those coming from the inland, are~~

moving ahead more rapidly than the British ~~xxx~~ had expected, and

~~The British are heavily outnumbered by the Italians.~~

PAISH

With help from the United States, Britain can hold out indefinitely against Hitler and eventually win the

war. So says ^{sin} ~~a British celebrity now visiting here, Sir~~

^{noted London} George Paish, ^{an} ~~the~~ economist ^{who} called at the ~~XXXXXX~~ White

House today. ^{this is what} ~~and after he left he said that's what~~ he told ^{the}

President. ~~Roosevelt.~~

^{But} By help from the United States he does ^{not} ~~mean~~ ^{troops;}
^{only} ~~soldiers, but~~ supplies. ^{TR} The real question, he added, is

whether Britain can keep the waterways open. So far, ^{declared} ~~said~~ the

famous exonomist, they have been eminently successful. Sir

George said that in one way, Hitler's conquest of Norway,

Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France was helping the British

~~to~~ hold out since it had enabled them to seize the fleets of

those countries. With all those merchant vessels they ^{now}

have ^{about} ~~nearly~~ as much tonnage as they ~~XXXX~~ had when the war

started.

Air raids on Britain, he ^{contended,} ~~said~~ will not be a decisive

factor. The British are fully prepared for them and are

inflicting more damage on Germany than Germany ~~is~~ on Britain.

AIR BASES

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That story about the swapping of American destroyers for British air bases in the Caribbean turns out to be only fractionally true. President Roosevelt made it known today that he has been holding conversations with the British Government for the leasing of not only air, but also naval bases in the Western Hemisphere. He also said, however, that these conversations are in no way concerned with any proposal to send obsolete American Navy destroyers over to Britain.

The same story came to light in London also. The British version is that unofficial conversations have been going on in London and Washington concerning the leasing of bases on British West Indian Islands by the United States.

And the British spokesman added that the idea has been

received with sympathy and interest in London. However, there's

appears to be no,

no question of selling any islands to the United States, just

for air bases, yes.

leasing. In London it is believed that American bases would

be located on Trinidad and Bermuda. However, that ^{is} unofficial —

and there's no confirmation.

In Washington President Roosevelt went to the length of permitting a direct quotation of these words:- "The

United States Government is holding conversations with the Government of the British Empire with regard to acquisition of naval and air bases for the defense of the Western Hemisphere and especially the Panama Canal." *And he added: -*

^ "The United States Government is carrying on conversations with the Canadian Government on the defense of the Western Hemisphere."

Congressmen received this news with mixed feelings. The chairmen of the important committees were strong for the idea, for instance Congressman May, Chairman of Military Affairs, and Vinson of ~~xxxxx~~ Georgia, ^{House} Chairman of Naval Affairs, ~~of the House~~. Also Republican Maas of Minnesota, minority member of the Naval ~~xxx~~ Affairs Committee of the House. The opposition is represented by such as Senator Nye of North Dakota.

Mr. Roosevelt also revealed the news that high officers of both Uncle Sam's Army and Navy are now in Great Britain as ~~expert~~ observers. ~~of hostilities going on xxxxxx~~ there.

ADD AIR BASES

A bulletin just in from London reports that Prime Minister Winston Churchill has actually cabled to President Roosevelt a formal offer of leases for ninety-nine years on all British Islands between Newfoundland and Guiana.

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CONSCRIPTION

There was a peculiar situation in Washington today. It concerned the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill pending before Congress. ~~And it~~ appears that action on ~~that~~^{the} bill is being held up pending a speech by a man who at present holds no official rank. I mean, the address of Wendell Willkie at Elwood, Indiana, when he formally accepts the Republican nomination for the presidency, *tomorrow.*

In all the arguments about that conscription bill in both houses of Congress, most of the Republican members have remained silent though Senators Vandenberg of Michigan, Taft of Ohio, and Thomas of Idaho, were violently opposed to it. But

it is ~~definitely known~~^{quite clear now} that those who have kept quiet ~~were~~^{have simply} ~~waiting until they learned what~~^{been} Willkie's views ~~are.~~^{to hear Wendell} And it has ~~been impossible to get the candidate either to tell or even to let it leak out.~~ Until tomorrow night, not a soul but himself will know what ~~position he is going to take about this~~ business of ~~drafting an army.~~

Both ~~chambers~~^{Houses} of Congress took a recess today; to give the Republicans a chance to go to Indiana and hear Willkie. And that recess gives the Democratic opponents of conscription time and opportunity to plan their fight. The

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betting is strong in the capital tonight that the party whips will not be able to hold the congressmen in line and that the opponents of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ conscription and the timid brethern will duck the issue until after the election, postpone consideration of the bill till January.

ROCKEFELLER

A Rockefeller in a high government job: that's ^{the} ~~one of~~
the interesting bits of ^{news} information, out of Washington today, ^{tonight.}
The Rockefeller in question is Nelson, ^{son of John D. Jr.} ~~second son of the head~~
~~of the family.~~ The rumor ^{of} about this appointment ran around
Washington after Nelson paid a visit to the White House, ~~and had~~
a ~~conference with the President.~~ The first guess was that
he might become assistant to the President, ~~XXXXXX~~ succeeding
James V. Forrestal, whose appointment as Under-Secretary of
the Navy was confirmed this afternoon by the Senate.

Later it turned out that ^{Nelson} Rockefeller ^{is to} ~~would~~ have a
different title. ^{TP} ~~First of all,~~ ~~The~~ President signed an order
establishing the position of "coordinator of commercial and
cultural relations between the American republics." ~~That's~~
~~quite a mouthful,~~ ^{that title.} This coordinator ^{to be} ~~is~~ a member of the Council
of National Defense. ~~A few minutes after creating that~~ ^{later}
~~long-winded title,~~ ^{and} Mr. Roosevelt nominated Nelson Rockefeller
to fill ~~it.~~ ^{the job.} ^{Young Nelson} He also becomes Chairman of the Inter-departmental
Committee on Inter-American Affairs. ~~Incidentally,~~ ^{TP} He will
serve without pay, ^{But,} ~~though~~ the Government will furnish his
expenses. ~~Imagine having~~ all those titles, and no pay! ~~check.~~

~~But maybe he can afford it.~~

Nelson Rockefeller has had considerable experience to equip him for his job. He is director of several enterprises

in South America. He is also President of Rockefeller Center, *and*

head
and of the ~~XXXX~~ Museum of Modern Art.

~~One of his enterprises in~~ South America, ~~was undertaken~~
at the invitation of the Government of Venezuela, ~~he~~ organized
a company to develop new industries and build a hotel at
Caracas, Capital of Venezuela. Recently, another South
American government invited ~~Nelson Rockefeller~~ ^{him} to do the same
thing, there, but it is not indicated which government that was.

In order to take up his ^{new} government job, he has
resigned as a director and officer in ~~his~~ ^{the} South American ~~enterprises.~~
^{also} ~~concerns~~ And he will be on leave of absence from his big

job as Number One Man ~~at~~ ^{the} Rockefeller Center. But, he ~~is~~ ^{will}

continue to serve as President of the New York Museum of

Modern Art because part of ^{his new job is to} ~~its activities is the~~ stimulating

~~of~~ ^{all} cultural relations between ^{the} American republics. ^{the} In

his official capacity ^{Nelson} Rockefeller will cooperate with the

cultural relations division of the State Department and similar

bureaus in the other two American republics.

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FLOOD

Here's a follow up on
~~still another installment of~~ the flood story from the
South. The damage in one county alone, ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ North Carolina is
tonight ^{estimated} ~~reported~~ at ten millions; - ~~ten million dollars' damage,~~
twenty dead, and ^{its} ~~still raining in that state;~~ Industries,
homes, factories, ^{wiped out.} and stores, ~~are reported total losses.~~ Thousands
~~of people are~~ homeless. The Red Cross and other agencies are
not only feeding the refugees but ^{are} ~~having~~ to provide clothes
for them. ~~too.~~

The farmers in parts of Virginia are faced with a
~~grave menace,~~ the loss of their big cash crop, tobacco.
Dispatches from ^{various} ~~a couple of~~ tobacco growing centers tell of
crops entirely ruined.

~~As for~~ Elwood, Indiana, ^a ~~that~~ Hoosier town of ~~ten~~ ten thousand ^{population} is all set - as all set as any town of ten thousand

could be, to entertain a crowd of visitors ^{— a crowd} that some estimate

will run as high as three hundred and fifty thousand. — tomorrow.

And Here's ^a ~~an odd~~ sidelight ^{on it:} - We are told ~~today~~ that

Elwood, ^{in politics} ~~is a town that~~ usually goes Democratic by a majority

of eleven ~~thousand~~ hundred. But tomorrow it will go Republican

by a majority of three hundred thousand, with Democratic

Governor Townsend of Indiana among those present! ^{Republicans} say this is a good omen. Time will tell.

The surrounding countryside ^{at Elwood} ~~is~~ already is all decked out

^{tonight} as though all the circuses in the world were due tomorrow. Every

side street ~~is~~ jammed with lunch counters, refreshment stands,

and souvenir stands.

Wendell Willkie, in Elwood, will ^{while Willkie will} be learning that he has been

nominated ^{his rival} will be inspecting the war games up near

today, the Canadian border. F.D.R., in answer to questions, said that

he guessed he'd ^{he'd} be so busy inspecting our army - all ninety-one thousand

men of it - that he would be unable ^{even} to hear ~~ten~~ tomorrow's

radio broadcasts from Indiana, ^{to busy} to hear one of his rival's most important speeches. ^{and now a speech from son Hugh.}

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