

P. 2. - Sunoco Thurs., Aug. 8, 1940

The biggest air battle in history was fought today. A cloudland engagement far greater than any other in the present war thus far. To measure it, we need only take the figures given out by both sides. London reports that ~~fifty~~ ^{seventy} ~~three~~ German planes were shot down in today's sky battle of the English Channel. Berlin states that thirty-four British planes were destroyed.

The sky fight began with something new in the war of the air -- a balloonbarrage protecting a convoy. One familiar thing has been those series of balloons attached to long cables and spaced at intervals to protect British cities and important strategic points. The idea being that attacking war planes would ~~fly into~~ fly into balloons and cables, a virtual fence of them.

Today that scheme of protection was applied to convoys steaming through the English Channel. Balloons were raised from ships, and held suspended in the air while the vessels steamed along. The British idea was that balloons and cables would make it tough for the Stuka Dive Bombers.

~~THE~~ The Stukers wouldn't dare to go diving in and take a chance on getting tangled in the balloon barrage.--- ~~That~~ was the British idea. It resulted in that biggest of air battles.

~~XXXXXX~~ London relates how the convoy was attacked by *The Nazis came over in waves of swarms of war planes.* It was a regular aerial blitzkrieg,

British fighters flew to repel them. [#] How did the battle turn out so far as the ships are concerned? A good deal of damage was done. The British communique reads as follows:-

"The results of the enemy bombing attacks are not fully known. Several ships received considerable damage, the extent of which it is not yet possible to ascertain." *Those are the words from London.*

Berlin claims the sinking of seventy-two thousand tons, fifteen ships sent to the bottom and eight damaged.

There was still another heavy fight, when Nazi torpedo speed boats attacked a British convoy. London reports that ~~WERE~~ three vessels in the convoy were sunk. One of the attacking torpedo boats ~~WERE~~ was destroyed. *In the greatest of all air battles.*

80 planes at a time - all day long.

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INDIA

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The first reports from India are unfavorable to the declaration made in London today - the announcement of new British concessions to the demands for self-government in Hindustan. What Britain grants is this: The people of India are to have immediately - a larger representation on the executive council of the Viceroy. And steps are to be taken for self-government in India - after the war is over. These concessions are linked to projects of having India support Great Britain more actively in the war.

But from Bombay come statements that the India National Congress may refuse to cooperate with the British war effort - in spite of the concessions announced today. The idea being that these concessions are not enough. The India National Congress is demanding self-government, independence or dominion status right away - and not after the war is over. Nationalist newspapers are saying that today's declaration amounts to a refusal of the Nationalist demands. *John Bull's troubles multiply.*

But then, John Bull has a way of coming through.

WINDSORS

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There was high ceremony in Bermuda today, although officially there wasn't supposed to be any particular celebration. The Duke and Duchess of Windsor arrived, and were greeted. They are travelling unofficially - to the Bahamas. At Bermuda they were merely private persons - *that is* theoretically.
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ But there was plenty of ceremony and hospitality. How long they'll stay is not certain, but the word is that the Duke and Duchess will continue their journey to the Bahamas next week.

GUARDS

U. S.

The Senate today passed the bill to mobilize the National Guards, the measure that gives President Roosevelt the right to summon as many as three hundred and sixty thousand state soldiers. It is understood that the Army intends to call some fifty-nine thousand of the ~~xxx~~ Guardsmen as soon as the formalities are complete. The bill permits the President to send militiamen and reservists anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. Also, to United States possessions, including the Philippine Islands.

Before passing the measure, the Senate adopted an amendment to permit Guardsmen with dependents to resign within twenty days after they're mobilized. State soldiers with wives and children can stay out of active service, if they so desire. So says the amendment of the bill the Senate passed.

POLITICS

President Roosevelt today made a prediction, and the question he chose for his prognostication was the following -- who will win the election in November? How did the President answer that one? Well, here's the deep secret. He predicted that the Democrats will win, and that he will be reelected.

F.D.R. appeared with his running mate, Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace, They attended a front porch rally given by Mrs. Roosevelt at Hyde Park. The President spoke to the gathering. Referring to Henry, he said:- "We're going to drive to a picnic fifteen or twenty miles from here, and on the way we're going to comment on Dutchess County corn versus Iowa corn." Then added this significant remark: "I think." said he, "it is one of those interminable arguments that is going to go on for the next four years." You see the deep and subtle inference -- the next four years, with F.D.R. and Henry on the job.

From the Willkie camp comes the announcement that Thomas E. Dewey will make a series of campaign appearances. Dewey, who was the leading contender for the Republican nomination, will go to bat in a big way for the man who got the prize. Wendell Willkie today stated that Dewey will make a series of speeches and will concentrate

his attack on the big town political machines that played so important a part in the nomination of President Roosevelt for a third term.

FARLEY

Jim Farley resigned as Postmaster General today, this to take effect on August Thirty-first. The President accepted the resignation with "real regret." There was an exchange of cordial letters between Franklin D. Roosevelt and the man so prominently identified with his political career - Jim the Vote Magician. In Washington the news evoked a flood of tributes from both Democrats and Republicans - expressions of friendship toward Jim Farley.

~~There is no real indication as to who will succeed the retiring Postmaster General, but~~ political gossip features the names of Governor Stark of Missouri and Senator Meade of New York *as possible successors.*

REWRITE OF STEWARDESS STORY

The strange case of Rosemary Griffith the aviation stewardess takes a turn of weird melodrama tonight. She tells an astounding story of how, away up in the air -- she was injured, and swallowed a key. Earlier accounts indicated that it was an accident, a mishap. That was the explanation given by airline officials. Now the story takes a new and extraordinary twist.

Last night the big transport of American Airlines was speeding west, toward Nashville. In the cabin the passengers were becoming uncomfortable and uneasy. It was so warm in the cabin, stifling. What was the matter with the ventilation?

Finally, one passenger went forward to the cockpit, where the pilots were. "Say," he complained, "it's awfully hot in here." The reply was: "Where is the stewardess? It is her job to look after the ventilation."

We haven't seen anything of the stewardess for some time," said the passenger. "She hasn't been around."

The airline captain investigated, and thereupon found the reason why the regulation of the ventilating system had been neglected. He discovered the stewardess lying prone in the rear compartment of the plane, unconscious and badly bruised.

That seemed very strange - had she been attacked? The case became still more surprising when the plane landed at Nashville. The stewardess was removed to a hospital, and there an X-ray examination ~~was~~ was quickly made. The X-ray showed that in the girl's stomach was the key to the baggage compartment. That was followed by a rumor -- that the flying stewardess had been seized by a passenger who demanded the baggage compartment key, and she had ~~swallowed~~ swallowed it.

This was followed by denial. Airline officials on the authority of the crew of the transport liner declared that the injuries of the stewardess had been incurred when the speeding airliner hit some stormy weather. The sudden tossing of the ship bounced the stewardess around, bruised her and knocked her unconscious. She must have had the key to the baggage room in her mouth at the time, and the abrupt shock must have caused her to swallow it.

Meanwhile, everything depended on the story the stewardess herself would give. After lying unconscious, she came to in a daze -- half hysterical. For a while she couldn't give a ~~clear~~ coherent account. Then, late this afternoon, her

story came through. Rosemary Griffith, the airline hostess states that she was slugged by a man who demanded the keys to the baggage ~~xxx~~ compartment.

Here is the official statement from Nashville. "Miss Griffith," it relates, ~~xxx~~ "says that she was leaning over in a corner in the ladies lounge. And some man whispered, "Give me the key, or I'll slug you." Then she said, she felt a heavy blow on the head. .

She said she saw no one. She said as she lay on the floor she swallowed the key to the baggage compartment. After she swallowed the key she remembered nothing. Until she was revived."

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That certainly is one of the strangest of stories --the man, the passenger, slugging the stewardess to get the baggage key. Why? What's the meaning? It's a blank mystery, about which more will certainly be heard.

MARRIAGE

Today in a court room at Paterson, New Jersey, a forty-five year old bachelor was saved from the fate of becoming a husband without being married. He protested earnestly, strenuously - no, he was not the lady's husband! But the lady insisted that he was. She also charged him with stealing a bankroll of money from her, when he deserted her.

The story goes back to Nineteen Twenty-two, eighteen years ago, when the married life of Mrs. Benjamin Klein suddenly came to an end. Her husband deserted her and their three children, and furthermore decamped with all the money she had - all her savings. Eighteen years went by, and that brings us to the present day turn of drama. Mrs. Klein, a resident of Paterson, New Jersey, was in New York - riding on an East Side subway. Suddenly she exclaimed - "There he is." She spotted a man entering the car. She recognized him as the vanished Mr. Klein because of what she called his "identical appearance." This included an old scar on the upper lip. Also - the same walk, the same mannerisms.

The vanished Klein had been a pushcart pedler - before that, he had been a silk dyer. The man that Mrs. Klein spotted

was also a pushcart pedler, previous to which he had likewise been connected with silk. He maintained, however, he had been, not a silk dyer but a silk weaver. He utterly denied that he was Mrs. Klein's husband. His name was not Klein, it was Pigula, Leo Pigula. In Nineteen Twenty-two, when Mrs. Klein was deserted, Pigula was in Poland - so he claimed.

None of this denial made any impression on Mrs. Klein. She had Pigula arrested on charges of desertion and larceny.

The case came up in court today, and the outlook for Pigula seemed blacker than ever when testimony was given by Mrs. Sadie Kraus. She's a sister of Mrs. Klein. Mrs. Kraus declared herself in these words:- "I swear by all that is holy, that he is the man. I never saw such a resemblance."

The Magistrate, Judge Rabinowitz, summoned all the wisdom of Solomon. He suggested that Mrs. Klein and Pigula have a talk together, and see if they couldn't straighten matters out. So the two went to one side and conversed. The news dispatch doesn't quote what Pigula said to Mrs. ~~xxx~~ Klein, but it was effective. After some minutes of conversation, the

lady said to the judge: "No, this not my Benjamin." She admitted she had made a mistake. Mrs. Klein told the judge that she regretted her error. Then she turned to Pigula: "I am sorry," she said, "that I have caused you so much trouble." To which Pigula responded, "Get away from me."

It was a little ungallant, not exactly chivalrous, but no doubt it expressed Pigula's sentiments quite accurately, when he said to Mrs. Klein, "Get away from me."

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And I'm going to say something just the opposite to "Get away from me," — to Hugh James. Hugh, come on over, over to the "Mike."