

P.L. - Sunoco. Friday, Sept. 20, 1940.

Something of a miracle happened in the news today. It began this morning with the official Berlin bulletin about the air war. The Nazi high command announced that in the fighting over Britain yesterday, one British plane was shot down while three German planes were lost. ^{Now} For the first time Berlin has stated that in a day of ^{battle} ~~xxx-battle the Luftwaffe~~ ^{Goering's squadrons} lost more than the Royal Air Force. Usually, it has been the other way round, the Germans claiming to have shot down huge numbers of British planes, with a loss of only a few of their own.

^{And,} This afternoon, the miracle was made complete. London cabled a story of how British fighter planes had ambushed a fleet of two hundred German bombers and fighters, and drove them away - an ambushade in the clouds. In this action, the British announced the losses as follows - four German planes shot down, while the R. A. F. lost seven. The Air Ministry explains this unfavorable ratio by citing the weather. "Cloud conditions made interceptions difficult," says the Air Ministry bulletin. ^{It} Today was the first time the British have ever stated that they lost more than the Germans. Usually the score has been about three to one in favor of the R. A. F., sometimes six to one.

~~What's happening to this war when all of a sudden,
on this particular day, both sides state they lost more planes
than the enemy?~~

~~Otherwise there's a familiar element of contradiction.~~
The latest Berlin bulletin states that all day ~~long~~ Nazi bombers
struck hard at London - inflicting huge damage. The British,
on the other hand, announce that today was the quietest air raid
day since the beginning of the bombing of London. ~~only one brief
air raid alarm in the British ~~xxxx~~ capital.~~

Londoners, however, were not particularly encouraged.
~~by the quietude.~~ There have been lulls before, always followed
by a more violent storm, and when night came London's misgivings
were realized, - the last word from the British capital ^{tonight is!} ~~is,~~
anti-aircraft fire and bombing. Air raiders over the city;-
~~and~~ blasts of heavy explosions here and there over London's
wide area.

The British counter-attack was going strong today.
From Vichy, seat of the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ French Government, we have a
report of the Royal Flying Corps striking at French harbors
held by the Germans. Invasion bases ~~were~~ blasted, set afire -
warehouses in flames. And, - German transports bombed and sunk.

The French say that several transports held in readiness for the intended invasion of Britain were hit and wrecked.

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London reports that R. A. F. bombers, operating among clouds, struck a shattering blow at Germany's Dordmund Ems Canal, ~~that is~~ one of the vital waterways in Hitlerland. British pilots went diving down through clouds and dropped heavy bombs on the aqueducts supplying the canal with water - smashing the aqueducts and tying up the canal.

The London Admiralty announces ^{tonight} that a British submarine sank a German transport on September Second, a big ship crowded with soldiers. This sinking had already been announced via Stockholm, but it had been denied by the Germans. The Stockholm story declared that there were four thousand troops ~~xxxx~~ aboard the transport, and a heavy loss of life followed the torpedoing. London now makes the formal claim, the British submarine having returned with its report.

MAJOR NEY

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A distinguished visitor dropped in the studio a few moments ago. He is a Canadian, just back from the other side. And, he is doing some exceedingly important work in connection with the war. So, I am going to ask him a question or two before I hurry on to the rest of tonight's news. His name is Major Fred J. Ney. His home when he is not rushing about the world, is out in the Canadian prairie, at Winnipeg. But even the Wild West hasn't taken away his ultra ultra English accent.

Major Ney is the head of the National Council of Education in Canada. So far he has done more than any other person to get children out of England, over to this continent. Major Ney, ^{from} what part of England do you bring the children? ~~from?~~

MAJOR NEY: Only from the parts where there is the greatest danger, the South and East coasts where most of the heavy bombing is going on. And, children ^{from} ~~are~~ the outskirts of London.

L.T.: You tell me that hundreds have been brought over already. In the news we have had a number of stories to the effect that there has been opposition to the bringing of

children from England. What about that?

MAJOR NEY: The cry was that only the children of the privileged classes were being brought over. But, that is not true. As far as possible we are keeping children together, bringing out entire schools, and, in some cases the military has moved into the school as we have taken the children out -- sons and daughters of clergymen, doctors, sea-faring & families, and so on. Just ordinary youngsters.

L.T. Do you expect to bring any more?

MAJOR NEY: *Yes indeed!*
~~We hope to~~ I am returning to England as soon as possible. It seems to me that this is ~~not~~ going to be a long war. And, poor old England is going to be devastated to a frightful extent, before we finally win out. For win we will. Our big problem just now is the financial one. No money can be brought from England. Every pound is needed to buy war materials. So, we need all the help we can get to finance the bringing of children from the war stricken parts of the British Isles, the children on whom the future of England depends.

L.T.: Everything Major Ney ~~is~~ is doing under the auspices of the National Council of Education in Canada, in Toronto.

I have known Major Ney for many years, and he is always devoting all of his time to altruistic work, doing things

for others. And now he is engaged in the most important work of his career.

DEFENSE

London reports that the British and American Governments have opened an important series of conversations on the subject of mutual defense - Secretary of State Hull conferring with British Ambassador Lord Lothian and the Australian Minister to Washington, Richard G. Casey. The mention of the Australian indicates that the defense conversations concern the Pacific Ocean in particular. This London confirms.

One angle is - Indo-China. Today we hear that the Japanese have presented what amounts to an ultimatum to the French Government, demanding concessions in the French colonies on the Asiatic mainland. Japan now is particularly demanding naval and air bases in Indo-China, and the negotiations have come to a standstill. Today's dispatch pictures an exodus of Japanese residents from the French colony, which might ~~xxxx~~ make it seem as if Tokyo were anticipating trouble.

In London the British Government spokesman was asked whether the subject of Indo-China was included in the defense conversations now being held in Washington. And he indicated - yes. He used these words - "I don't see why any specific subject should be excluded."

The London report states that the talks going on in Washington may have a decided effect on that famous Asiatic highway - the Burma Road. At the behest of Japan, Great Britain closed the Burma Road, along which vital supplies were going to the Chinese Army fighting the Japanese. The United States protested against the closing, but London didn't want to take any chance ~~on~~ a clash with Japan. Now, however, the ~~XXXX~~ Burma Road may be reopened as an artery of supplies to the Chinese Army. It may - if Great Britain sees the likelihood of getting important support from the United States in the Far East.

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The Washington conversations are said to envisage a program of joint British and American control of the oceans - the United States fleet to police the Pacific, while the British fleet takes care of the Atlantic. Further, it is suggested that Great Britain might grant the United States the use of naval and air bases in Asia. Particularly - Singapore, the Gibraltar of the Far East. This mention of a sharing of Asiatic naval and ~~xxx~~ air bases might seem to be a logical follow-up to the leasing of the naval and air bases to the United States in the Caribbean. More British American tie-up -

that's increasingly in the wind.

In Washington today, Secretary of State Cordell Hull was asked about the conversations between ~~him~~ himself, the British Ambassador and the Australian Minister. He responded that the talks have been going on with a free and frank exchange of views. His statement was cautious, guarded - non-committal, even. He was asked whether the diplomatic talks were considering Asiatic naval and air bases, Singapore - in particular. The Secretary's reply, as given by the United Press, is as follows, and non-committal is the word: ~~The~~ U. P. dispatch reads:- "Every pro and con of the world situation has been a topic," Hull said, but he could not recall any particular reference to an American use of British world wide naval bases. "Singapore might have been mentioned," he said, "but it was not dwelt upon with emphasis." So reads the dispatch - and what a forgetful Secretary of State! At the time in the diplomatic exchanges, when naval and air bases and Singapore may or may not have been mentioned, the Secretary must have been day dreaming about a fishing trip down in Tennessee.

WILLKIE

Before the Senate ~~XXXXXX~~ Campaign Committee today appeared Oren Root, Jr. He's the chairman of the two thousand Willkie-for-President Clubs. Only twenty-nine, a novice in politics, he jumped into prominence in the Willkie movement and quickly got the reputation of being something of a political wizard.

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The Senate Campaign Committee is keeping an eye on election activities, doing a sort of police job - to preserve politics in a proper state of purity. Specifically, the committee is applying the Hatch Act, with its limitations placed on money spent in behalf of candidates. A presidential candidate is limited to three million dollars. There were charges that the Willkie-for-President Clubs were being used as a means of dodging the Hatch Act Limitation. So Oren Root, Jr. was called upon to testify. He stated that Willkie told them not to raise and spend any more than a million dollars. Those were definite Willkie instructions to Oren Root. The Republican candidate also placed restrictions on the Republican National Committee and on the Association for Willkie Democratic Clubs. "If," said Oren Root, "they live up to his directions - which of course they will - the aggregate for the campaign will be

less than three million dollars." And that is, under the Hatch Act limit.

There were questions about the Willkie Magazine Fund, which is based on advertisements. Oren Root stated that the Willkie Clubs had nothing to do with the Magazine Fund.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt's trip to Philadelphia today again raised the delicate question of political or non-political. He went to the ~~xxx~~ City of Brotherly Love to receive an honorary degree from the University of Pennsylvania. ~~the degree of Doctor of Laws.~~ That's non-political. Entirely academic... ~~an honorary degree has little significance in an election - or in anything else for that matter.~~ Also, the ~~xxxxxx~~ President inspected naval construction at Philadelphia. ~~He~~ went to the Navy Yard, where the thirty-five thousand ton battleship Washington is being fitted out, where the forty-five thousand ton ~~xxxxx~~ superdreadnought New Jersey is being built, and where they're rushing plans on two other superdreadnoughts for America's two-ocean Navy. Defense inspection - and ~~that's~~ not a subject of politics or partisanship.

well, The high spot was an address at Convention Hall - where Franklin D. Roosevelt was renominated for the Presidency four years ago and where Wendell Willkie was nominated this year. The surroundings were full of political reminiscence. So what about the speech? It was on the air, and the rule is that if the President makes a political speech he pays for the radio

time. If it's a non-political address, the time on the air is free.

This afternoon it was free, no charge. So what did the President say? ~~It is hard for a candidate to utter anything that may not be subject to political interpretation, but~~ The nearest thing to politics ~~in the Presidential address this afternoon~~ was a remark or two about government and business. *For instance!* ~~This paragraph~~

~~was typical, when~~ the presidential voice declaimed:- "Even today there are, I regret to say, demands for a return of government to the control of those few - who, because of business ability or economic omniscience, are supposed to be just a touch above the average of our citizens."

Now, he wouldn't be meaning Wendell Willkie by that, *would he?*

True, Willkie ~~xxxx~~ achieved fame as something of a business wizard, *a genius at large affairs* - but right now he's being "plain folks" - the way of a candidate.

KIDNAP

A kidnap sensation broke in California today.

A pair of snatchers seized a three year old boy, son of wealthy and socially prominent parents. The father is Count Mark de Tristan. The mother is the former Jane Crhistenson, member of a family of lumber and shipping magnates. The child was in the care of his nurse, who fought to save him. She was overpowered by the two kidnapers and in the struggle seized the hat of one - a grey felt hat, a possible clue. They left a ransom note with the nurse. It demands a hundred thousand dollars and has a strange sort of signature. It's signed:-

"Unconventional Eccentric."

the job.

The G-men are on

~~A Japanese gardner saw the kidnapers get away in their car and gave chase in his own auto. When they saw they were pursued they stopped, threatened the Japanese gardner with a gun and drove him off. Tonight the F.B.I is on the job, the G-Men with their long record of catching kidnapers.~~

ELEPHANT

Soviet Russia reports a find -- a real treasure.

Not of gold, diamonds, rubies or pearls -- but of old bones.

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Very old bones, dating back to the ice age. In paleontology, Siberia is notable for the great number of mammoths that are dug up - those huge elephant-like creatures with the immense and sweepingly curved tusks. The paleontological find reported today is not a mammoth - but something far older. It's an ancestor of the mammoth tribe. The difference is in the tusks.

The ancestor of the mammoths has tusks that are straight, not curved. Science knows the giant critter as elephas antiquus.

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Its remains are extremely rare, only a few fragments found here and there. The elephas antiquus just unearthed in Siberia, however, is a complete skeleton and in a remarkable state of preservation. News for the paleontologists.

59 1/4
And now Hugh how about some news for motorists?