

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Frenchmen fighting Frenchmen on the West Coast of Africa! That's the latest *incredible development in* ~~amazement in the European War, this~~ *this strange war. Right at* ~~conflict so full of amazements and contradictions.~~ At this moment, a battle is raging, a naval battle in the French port of Dakar, capital of the Colony of Senegal. *HP* But let's *go back a moment* ~~trace the story to its~~ *beginnings.*

For some time the British have been threatened with the establishment of an enemy base at Dakar, in fact this threat has existed ever since France capitulated to Germany and Italy. The air has been full of rumors that either the Italians or the Nazis might occupy Dakar, or at least obtain by force the consent of the French to establish an air base there.

Dakar is ~~the~~ most important from a military standpoint. It's a jumping off place for air travel to South America, and could be used by submarines for attacks on ~~the~~ British trade routes to both

South Africa and South America. ~~You will recall that~~ ^{TP} Only last week we heard that six French warships had passed through the Straits of Gibraltar from Toulon. They included three of the newest cruisers built in France and three fast new destroyers. As the British Ministry of Information puts it - that move of the French ships clearly could not have been ^{made} ~~done~~ without German permission. The British take the position that the sending of that French squadron, with the obvious permission of the Germans, meant an attempt by the Nazis to take over Dakar.

Shortly after noon today, a squadron of British warships arrived off Dakar. It carried an expedition led by General Charles DeGaulle, head of the organization known as "Free Frenchmen."

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When the expedition arrived at Dakar, DeGaulle summoned General Boisson, Governor of the Colony, to surrender not to the British but to the Free Frenchmen. If he did not surrender, the British warships would open fire.

The Governor-General lost no time in communicating with Vichy by radio. The Petain government ordered Boisson to resist to the utmost. Governor-General Boisson accordingly rejected

the ultimatum of General DeGaulle. Thereupon the British warships
--that was opened fire, at five minutes past two ^{this} ~~in the~~ afternoon. The French
warships in the harbor returned the fire. Among them was the
battleship RICHELIEU, which had been damaged by a British mine
some months ago ~~xxxxxx~~ but escaped to Dakar, where she was in
drydock. But, it ^{is} reported that the fourteen inch guns of the
RICHELIEU were able to reply to the British ^{right} attack from that
drydock.

After the battle began Vichy reported ^{that} for a while ~~that~~
communications with the Governor-General of Dakar had been cut off
and assumed that the British gunfire had destroyed the radio station.
But four hours later a communication ~~xxxxxx received~~ from Vichy
^{stated} ~~reported~~ that up to that time ^{at Dakar} ~~sixty~~ persons had been killed and sixty
wounded.

General DeGaulle justified his ultimatum on the ground
that many of the French in Dakar are in sympathy with his committee
of Free Frenchmen and opposed to the Vichy government. The Petain
Cabinet issued an official statement in the most bitter terms.

After reporting the battle, the Cabinet said, in these words: _

have been
"At one time it could ~~not~~ ~~have~~ believed that General DeGaulle went
over to the pay of England only to continue the war against our
former enemies. But the facts now prove that this is not the case."

And the statement continues:- "DeGaulle is at the head of the foreign

forces and leads an attack against fellow Frenchmen." *It concludes*
by stigmatizing General Charles De Gaulle with the ugly term, traitor.
At latest reports that naval battle at Dakar ~~is~~ ~~still was~~

~~raging, and probably is going on at this minute.~~ *TF* The British squadron
carries a landing party composed not only of British soldiers but
of a foreign legion, principally French.

If the Vichy government is bitter about the Battle of Dakar,
you ought to hear the Germans! ~~They talk like people literally~~
~~frothing at the mouth.~~ ~~The tone of their fury indicates that~~
~~somebody's ox had been gored pretty close to German soil.~~ ~~The Nazi~~
~~report is that the British squadron sent a rain of shells over~~
~~French cruisers, destroyers, submarines and even fishermen's huts.~~
The Nazis hint at reprisals against the British, meaning vengeance
against ~~those~~ British citizens who are still ~~left~~ *marooned* in France. The
Germans also point out that there are some five hundred French planes
available in Algeria and Morocco for a bombardment of Gibraltar.
~~Actually~~ *just* There's no telling where this Battle of Dakar may
lead.

KING GEORGE

No ruling monarch has ever spoken to his people under such fantastic conditions as King George of England today. He spoke by radio to the empire and indeed to the world at large, ~~spoke~~ from the cellar of ~~his~~ Buckingham Palace, a palace pockmarked with the ^{destructive} work of Nazi bombs. While he was in the middle of his address, the air raid alarm sounded and Nazi bombers were trying to fight their way through the protecting screen to the heart of King George's capital. ~~It could be heard~~ From the tone of his ^{voice} ~~voice~~ ^{you could tell} that the alarm had not shaken him. He spoke firmly and ^{voice} with unwavering through it all.

^{The King warned his} ~~He warns~~ people that, with all ~~that~~ they have suffered, there are grimmer times yet to come. For the first time in history, British cities are in the front fighting line today, ~~and war is at the very doors of Great Britain.~~ "The Queen and I," he said, "have seen many of the places that have been most heavily bombed and talked to the people that suffered most." ~~Our hearts,~~ ^{said the} King, ~~"are with them."~~

He urged his people to keep at work regardless of danger, for the people in the fighting lines must be kept supplied

with ~~the~~ weapons of war. Then ~~he said, talking to the auxiliary~~

services: ~~"To the men and women who carry on the work of the~~

~~air services I should like to say a word in gratitude."~~ He spoke

of the torpedoing of those eighty-three children as an illustration

of the wickedness that we have to fight. "But," he added, "whatever

And said the King,
the enemy does, there will always be an England. "With the aid of

Britain's friends in America, Great Britain will emerge victorious

as a symbol and citadel of freedom,"

GERMANY

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The Germans today were consumed with fury. That hardly sounds like news. But the point is that they're angry because the British Royal Air Force has been bombing German cities. To be sure, we have heard quite a few stories about the bombing of London and other British cities. But that's just a matter of military necessity to the German mind. Retaliation by the British is wicked, a crime to be punished by "annihilation." That's the word used by one Nazi spokesman. "England will be punished as no people has ever been punished before. It can be summed up in one word, annihilation."

Early today, ^{Berlin} ~~the Germans~~ started to deny that any Nazi U-boat had torpedoed that refugee ship drowning two hundred and ninety-three people, including eighty-three children. Nazi officials branded the story as a brazen lie, an appeal to the ^{of the world, particularly the U.S.A.} ~~world's~~ sympathy. They said no German submarine or airplane had been operating in those waters where the refugee ship was sunk. Later on, the German spokesmen changed their tone, said it was possible, but that whoever had dared to send children on an ~~army~~ ^{and} merchantman through the blockade zone had made himself guilty of the murder of those children.

INDO-CHINA

French troops in Indo-China ~~were~~ ^{important Far Eastern} disarmed by the invading Japanese army. That's the latest from that ^{French colony.}

The French troops, of course, were hopelessly outnumbered. After putting up as good a resistance as they could, ~~to the Japanese~~ ~~invaders,~~ they surrendered.

The Japanese army invaded Indo-China with the consent of the government at Vichy and after all, ~~the~~ ^{and} the government at Vichy could hardly do any different ^{than it did.} The way it is phrased officially, is that the French government has granted the ^{Japanese} imperial army and navy special facilities in Indo-China to pursue their operations.

The French government made that agreement with a view to contributing to the establishment of a new order in the Far East and ^a settlement of the Chinese affair. It was all, said the French statesman, very friendly. And the Japanese government has assured the French government that it will respect the rights and interests of France in the Far East.

All of which has a grimly ironic sound.

The United States government doesn't consider the procedure friendly or conducive to order ~~or anything nice~~ in the

Far East. Secretary of State Hull ^{today} expressed the serious views of the State Department. "This government," said the Secretary, "has repeatedly shown its disapproval of such procedure. And it considers the invasion of Indo-China by Japanese troops as the employment of force to upset the status-quo in the Far East." However, he didn't indicate what ^{We} ~~the United States government~~ would do about it, if anything.

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~~Of course~~ ^{And} there's no doubt in the mind of anybody who knows the Far East that it won't be long now before Indo-China becomes in name as well as in effect a colony of the Mikado!

On this head there seems to be a disagreement between our State Department and the foreign office of the Vichy government. The French Foreign Minister told American newspaper correspondents that Washington had given its approval to the concessions handed by the French to the Japanese. The French Foreign Minister said Secretary Hull had informed the French Ambassador at Washington that the United States government realized the difficult position of France and understood the necessity for France's consenting.

Here's a message of alarm from the Far East. It comes from Roy Howard, Editor of the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM and the head of the entire Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers. Roy Howard, who used to be one of the crackajack reporters of the United States, has been making another tour of the Far East. A policy of appeasement, says he, would be an invitation to disaster. Peace in the Pacific, he adds, is guaranteed only to those who are able to command it.

Neither reason nor logic is motivating the army obligarchy which today dominates the political government of Japan. And Howard reports that events are taking shape there which may more vitally affect our national future than any development in the battle of Britain.

CONSCRIPTION

The President ^{today} started the machinery rolling for the draft the first peace-time draft in the history of the United States. He signed an executive order describing the process by which some sixteen and a half million American men will register for service on October Sixteenth.

To begin with, the election offices throughout the land will conduct the process of registration. Local draft boards will then classify the men who have registered. Each board will have assigned to it a physician to conduct examinations of the men, and a government appeal agent for the men who wish to appeal from the decisions of the board. There will also be an advisory medical board to decide appeals from the decision of the local physician. All this machinery will be controlled and administered by civilians and not by army officers.

WILLKIE

Representative Joe Martin of Massachusetts has words of good cheer for Republicans. Joe, who is not only Minority Leader in the House but National Chairman of the G.O.P., doesn't take much stock in those polls which have indicated a trend of public opinion away from Candidate Wendell Willkie. It's much too early for ~~these~~² polls to have any value, says the National Chairman. Many an election is won in September, he ^{reminds us,} ~~says~~ and lost in November.

Martin points out that ~~xxx~~ for one thing, the Republicans don't have to worry about either Pennsylvania or Massachusetts. Massachusetts of course is his own ground. And in Pennsylvania, he declares, people who used to be Democrats are swarming to the Willkie banner. The G.O.P. Chairman says the campaign has not by any means hit its full stride. That won't happen until October Third, when Wendell Willkie speaks in Pittsburgh. Martin is a great believer in timing.

UNION

A couple of labor union leaders at St. Louis stood up in a federal court today and heard some words from the judge. Those words were: "I sentence you to ^{five} years in prison and a fine of ten thousand dollars each."

One of those labor tycoons was formerly International Vice-President of the ~~American Federation of Labor~~ Stage Hands Union. His partner was the local business agent at St. Louis.

They were convicted last week of using their jobs as union leaders to shake down theatre owners in St. Louis, threatening to call strikes of motion picture ^{projectionists} ~~machine operators~~ if the theatre owners did not contribute.

More labor leaders Peglerized!

The Stage Hands Union has been one of the pet targets of ~~my neighbor~~, Westbrook Pegler. It was thanks to Pegler, you will recall, that Willie Bioff, the movie union's czar on the West Coast, had to serve a term in jail, to which he was sentenced years ago. Pegler has described that organization as one of the most disgraceful unions, a shake-down racket.

KIDNAPPING

One family in America today was exceedingly happy. For that kidnapping affair comes to a happy end. It took the apparently insane effort of the snatcher to bring complete happiness to the Tirstan home.

Tonight we have the narrative of Cecil Wetzel, the lumber man who rescued the boy from the kidnapper, as told to the SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER. Wetzel is the father of three youngsters himself and was imagining all along how the parents of little Marc had been suffering. So he became suspicious when one of his men told him about a dark man in a motor car who was driving up and down the roads and appeared to be lost and excited. Wetzel thought about the kidnapping case, so he got one of his drivers to ride up the road in a truck. When he saw the

kidnapper in the stolen car, Wetzel had his driver stop the truck at an intersection, thus blocking the road. Then the dark stranger drove near and asked profanely how to get out of that place.

Says Wetzel: "Now, that's not the way to ask questions, so I started toward the car, trying to get as close as I could.

When I saw the golden haired boy in the back of the car I got even more suspicious. When I asked the man where he got the boy, he quickly slithered ^{out from behind the wheel, "adds)} ~~out of his car,~~ "says Wetzel, "and started for me with a gun in his right hand."

~~It should be explained that~~ Wetzel ^{weighs} ~~two~~ two hundred and ^{and} twenty pounds ^{for} used to play football ^{at} Washington State ^{the Cougar} ~~College~~.

When he saw the gun in the kidnapper's hands he made a flying

tackle and brought him down. He grabbed the kidnapper's gun ^{and also sat} ~~but continued to sit~~ on him. Then the kidnapper said: "You ^{ve} got my

gun, why can't you let me up?" But Wetzel and his driver, Ellis

Woods, ~~were no fools. They~~ searched him again and found he had

~~So they disarmed him.~~ another pistol in a shoulder holster. ~~And says Wetzel:~~ "I'm glad

~~I did, I'm glad because I'm a father myself."~~

Although little Marc was uninjured, it became known

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today that he had a narrow escape from death. While the ~~German~~ kidnaper,

Wilhelm Muhlenbroich
was driving along with ~~him~~, he was going so fast that ~~he~~ the car^ toppled

down a forty foot embankment. ~~Fortunately, the boy was not damaged,~~ no one hurt.

~~not even hurt.~~

The ~~little~~ boy's mother, the Countess de Tristan, said today that there are details about the kidnap note which have not been published. She believes that maybe a woman ^{also} had something to do with the crime, ~~that's what she conjectures from the unpublished portions of the text.~~

And now Hugh what good

59 1/4 news from you?