

L. J. - Sunoco - Tuesday, Aug. 18, 1942. ✓
Lanman

RAIDS

There was ^{another} a whirl of air battle over the French coast today, when British and American fighter planes sallied forth to fulfill the promise made by British and American air commands.

Last night they stated ^d that they were prepared to launch against Nazi Germany the greatest sustained aerial assault in history.

Last night the British assaulted Osnabruck, and rained ~~a~~ down fifty thousand incendiaries, not counting the high explosive missiles. They devastated the industrial city which is also a

highly important railroad center. The American contribution to

last night's bombing was ^{that} a raid by flying fortresses against the Nazis at Rouen, ^{led by Gen. Ira Eaker} The fortresses accomplished their mission without

the loss of a plane, although the big sky ships displayed some bullet holes when they came back. They hit German war installations at Rouen with shattering results, and today received a British compliment phrased in exceedingly American terms.

British Air Marshal Harris, chief of the R.A.F. bomber command, put it this way:- "Yankee Doodle certainly went to town and can still get another well deserved feather in his cap," said he.

RAIDS - 2

Continuing the twenty-four-hour-a-day assault, British and American fighter planes today sallied over the French coast, and blazed away at German fighter squadrons that came up to meet them.

Several Nazis were shot down -- one enemy plane going to pieces in the air when hit by ^{shells hurled by} cannon ~~shot~~ from a spitfire. A couple of

British planes were missing when it was all over.

EGYPT

There is a change in command for the British in Egypt. -- Auchinleck is replaced. The London War office announced today that General Sir Claude Auchinleck, commander-in-chief of the British in the middle east, has been relieved of his command, and General Harold Alexander has been named to succeed him.

And other replacements of high officers are made -- a major shake-up in Egypt.

General Alexander, the new chieftain in Egypt, was British commander in Burma, -- and that would hardly seem to win acclaim for him as a victorious general. The Japs took Burma, but military opinion is that General Alexander did his brilliant best in the face of a very bad predicament, *— with a handful of troops.* The situation of his army was hopeless from the start, and he could fight nothing more than a rear guard action, trying to cause loss and delay to the Japs. This he did with high military competence, fighting ~~as~~ his rear guard action with clever tactics and dogged courage. He was one of the last to leave Burma, crossing the mountainous country into India.

The question inevitably arises, *why* ~~why~~ has General Auchinleck been relieved of the command in Egypt? We have no definite answer; but the story from London tends to relate the removal to Churchill's

conferences with Stalin in Moscow.

The British Prime Minister went to Moscow via Egypt. He stopped at Cairo, and did some investigating -- trying to find out the reason why the British were defeated in Libya. For that defeat, General Ritchie was replaced by General Auchinleck. Rommel's Panzers stormed on into Egypt, and finally were stopped at the very gateway to Alexandria. Auchinleck checked them there, and then took the counter-offensive against Rommel and forced him back some small ~~SIXTYSEVEN~~ distance. But Auchinleck failed to continue his drive against Rommel. He didn't go on smashing German Panzers to clear them out of Egypt altogether. Why not? This, we are told, was one of the questions investigated by Churchill in Cairo. And he decided to give the British Command in Egypt a complete overhauling -- new commander-in-chief and all.

Then Churchill went along to Moscow and discussed the whole war situation with Stalin. And this apparently confirmed him in his intention to shuffle the command in Egypt.

London by the way, is much concerned about one angle of the Churchill trip. It was a deep secret -- or it was supposed to

EGYPT - 3

have been. Yet the Axis knew all about it from the moment Churchill started out. They knew he had gone to Cairo, and were quite aware that he was in Moscow. And they broadcast radio accounts of the whole thing. These, we in America picked up **last week** -- and had ~~the rumors of the Churchill trip~~ on our own radio. What London wants to know is how Berlin got hold of the secret. Where was the leak? British Government circles are deeply concerned about it, and are holding an investigation to prevent such leaks in the future.

RUSSIA

The news from Russia today included one fact favorable to the Red Army -- more favorable than has been the case in weeks. The southern claw of the German pincer movement aimed at Stalingrad seems to have been smashed up badly. A Nazi armored drive was rolling forward, closing around to the south of the great industrial city on the Volga. The Russians hit back, and the German column was forced to retreat under heavy blows. Red Army forces scored a definite advance in this sector.

Above Stalingrad, however, the northern claw of the Nazi Pincer was driven forward again, edging ahead in heavy fighting. And in the Caucasus the German push keeps rolling on. This is particularly true of the thrust directed against the big Soviet bases on the ~~Black~~ Black Sea.

Moscow states that the Germans have succeeded in crossing the Kuban River in heavy force -- near Krasnodar. And this has redoubled the danger to the Red Sea base at Novrossisk. The Germans are within sixty-three miles of that port, and Moscow calls the situation there -- "Extremely serious."

SOLOMONS

There's no late official word about the Solomon Islands tonight. Nothing ~~is~~ new and definite about the marines battling on the South Sea beaches. However, the marines may not be alone. It is believed that regular United States Army troops have joined them. ~~so now~~ ^{with} the Japs ^{now} ~~are~~ facing the leathernecks plus the regulars.

This word comes from Auckland, New Zealand, ~~which is~~ official headquarters of Admiral Ghormley, who is in command of the attack on the Solomons. The dispatch from Auckland speaks of -- official silence, and warns against an excess of optimism.

The general impression around Admiral Ghormley's headquarters is that the Solomon Island campaign has been more than favorable for the United States thus far, and there are plenty of grounds for assuming that it will be successful right to the end. But the conflict for the islands is not likely to come to a full decision in the near future. "The Japs," say American Naval officers, "will not give up the Solomons without a last ditch fight."

And It is expected that they may try to strike somewhere else as a diversion. ~~They might hit at~~ Port Moresby, in New Guinea, for example, to take the pressure off the Solomons.

Today in Chicago, a grand jury heard a highly interesting story about journalism. At the time of the battle of Midway Island the Chicago Tribune, together with several other newspapers printed a dispatch that gave information about the strength and disposition of the Japanese fleet. This was so correct that the charge was made that the story must have been gathered from confidential sources. In other words, it was claimed that the Chicago Tribune story disclosed secret naval information. And this might come under the heading of a violation of the espionage laws. So a grand jury is investigating the whole thing.

13
Today two star witnesses appeared - J. ~~Isy~~ Loy Maloney, Managing Editor of the paper, and Stanley Johnson - foreign correspondent. It was Stanley Johnson who provided the information about the Jap fleet. Where did he get it - and how? Today Johnson before going into the grand jury room, stated the following to the reporters:- "If anybody says I gave information to the Japs against my country, he is crazy".

And now for the main point:- Where did Johnson find out about the strength and disposition of the Japanese fleet in the battle of Midway? In answer, the foreign correspondent referred to a newspaper ~~episode~~ episode of years ago, an episode concerning that mighty man of journalism - H. L. Mencken. It appears that during the Russo-Japanese War, Mencken wrote a story about the prospects of the big naval battle that was about to happen - the conflict in which the Japs destroyed the Russian fleet. He gave an account of the strategy and analyzed the naval moves. But what has that got to do with the present case?

54
Said correspondent Johnson today: "If it appears like a coincidence that I wrote the story, I did, I can only remind you that in nineteen five, Mr. Mencken wrote up the Russo-Japanese fleets two weeks before the fight and foretold accurately the damage done".

So Johnson indicates that he himself - like Mencken ~~is~~ -- did a bit of accurate analysis and prognostication. He states

that he provided the information about the Jap fleet at Midway from his own knowledge of naval affairs and from "Janes fighting ships", that authoritative British annual publication on the fleets of the world.

In other words, from his own knowledge, and from a reference to Janes Fighting Ships, he was able to make a good guess at the strength and disposition of the Japanese warships - so good that that he is accused of ~~did~~ disclosing naval secrets.

So that is the defense made by the newspaperman who turned in the much ~~hey~~ debated story published by the Chicago Tribune.

BRAZIL

15
Today the President of Brazil addressed an angry crowd. He told them what Brazil intended to do, and expressed it with these words: "I will act with maximum vigor to punish the Axis criminals", said he.

This is the latest in Brazil's reaction to the torpedoing of five of its ships by Axis submarines. The whole country is in an uproar of indignation about the sinkings -- which caused the loss of ^{hundreds} ~~a number~~ of Brazilian soldiers who were aboard the ~~the~~ ships.

At Rio and at other cities, crowds gathered to stage violent anti-German demonstrations with shouts of ~~the~~ vengeance, and German-owned stores were stoned. In Rio, a great mass of people assembled today in front of the United States embassy, which is on an avenue named after President Wilson. The Brazilians cheered the United States and President Roosevelt.

These expressions of public feeling increase the probability that Brazil will declare war against the enemies of the United States -- this in retaliation for the sinking of the five ships. If so, Brazil will be the first ~~among~~ South American nation to proclaim hostilities against our Axis enemy.

6

TAXES

The Finance Committee of the Senate is ^{showing} ~~expressing~~ a lot of interest in a new tax plan. And this plan includes an idea expressed by the word -- "forgiving." It proposes that the income taxes we are now paying this year be -- ~~forgiving~~ forgiven. Well, we all know that forgiveness is divine -- and it certainly would be in the realm of income taxes.

However, the idea is not simply to call off the taxes.

It is this way: Beardsley Ruml, chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, suggests that all income taxes be collected currently. As it stands now, the taxes on last year's income are being collected this year. In Nineteen forty-two we are paying on the income we earned in Nineteen forty-one.

If we are paying ~~now~~ currently it would mean that we would pay as we earn. This week we would pay the taxes on this week's income. And the idea is that this should be collected at ^{the} source -- deducted from wages, as the wages are paid.

- Of course, that might lead to double taxation. We are now paying on last year's income, and if the taxes on this year's income were to be deducted as we earn the income -- we would be

paying on both last year's income and this year's. ^{And} That is what
tax expert ~~Beardley~~ Ruml proposes to avoid. In other words, pass up
the taxes we owe for last year's income and let the payments we
are now making be applied to taxes on what we are earning this year.
In that way they would get ^{going with a} ~~the~~ system of current collection, ~~working,~~
[^] and, we would go on paying taxes as we earn income -- the taxes to
be deducted from the income as we make it.

Today Senator George of Georgia stated that several
members of the Senate Finance Committee have expressed what he
called -- "Great interest." They are inclined to give a lot of
consideration to the new plan.

WIDOW

At St. Louis, the authorities are appealing to the Navy Department in a case ~~of~~ complex with legal angles -- also human angles. A sixteen year old girl is charged with bigamy. Her first husband was a sailor aboard an American warship in the Battle of the Java Sea.

Mary Haislip was fifteen years old when she worked in the home of Mrs. Williams -- as a maid. Mrs. Williams' son, Robert, joined the Navy. But first he married Mary, his mother's maid. He went to training camp -- then off to the far East. ^{There} ~~And~~ Robert Williams vanished in the swirling events of war. The Navy Department sent word to his mother and wife -- he was listed as missing in the Battle of the Sea of Java.

Mary, now sixteen, was sure he was dead. She met another fellow, a twenty-one year old operator of a doughnut shop. He was sympathetic to her story -- and they were married. Whereupon the mother-in-law, Mrs. Williams, ~~has~~ had Mary arrested for ~~big~~ bigamy.

Today in court the girl wailed:- "I just know he is dead."

The mother spoke with firm conviction: "I just know he is alive."

WIDOW - 2

The authorities say that all they can do is to appeal to the Navy Department and try to get some further ruling concerning the fate of sailor Robert Williams, who vanished in the Battle of the Sea of Java.

9
And e-l-u-t-m.