

L.T. SUNOCO MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1940

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Good Evening, Everybody:-

In accordance with a prophecy made several times of late, the British have abandoned Somaliland On the face of it this looks like a quick and spectacular victory for Mussolini since with this action he gets control, for the time being at any rate, of some sixty-eight thousand square miles of African desert.

But when it's all analyzed, the importance of Somaliland to Britain was primarily strategic. There's little of value in the country. Nor can it be of importance to the Italians unless they can make it an important air base. And that seems unlikely.

Though this Somaliland campaign lasted only about three weeks, it is reported in London that the British had only twelve hundred men there, and they have been facing *several*

Italian divisions, thirty thousand strong, plus airplanes and tanks. It is announced in London that the evacuation was completed without loss.

The Italians now have control of almost five hundred miles of African desert coastline, right across from the British fortress of Aden and at the entrance to the Red Sea. Berbera, the capital of Somaliland and chief harbor, is a hundred and eighty miles across from Aden. So with a strong air force in Somaliland, Mussolini could disrupt British Red Sea traffic. But how to get his air force there? That's the problem.

It was by agreement between Italy and Britain that the British first got the protectorate over that part of Somaliland. An agreement made in Nineteen Seven.

This Somaliland evacuation was foreshadowed last week, as a direct result of the collapse of France. The British War Office announced that the original dispositions of the Allies in Somaliland were based on a scheme of close Franco-British cooperation. The French forces at Djibouti were to hold the right flank, the pivot

of the whole position. With the sudden collapse of ^{France} ~~the French~~ ~~government~~, a new and grave situation was created. More than half the available Allied force had been neutralized. So ^{for} ~~if~~ the British ^{to} reinforced the defense of Somaliland sufficiently to make it safe from the Italians, ~~they~~ ^{meant the} would have ~~had to~~ ^{ing of} weaken their reserves in other theatres of war more important to the main scheme.

The War Office explained that the time factor was also a serious consideration. The high command therefore decided to order the small British force in Somaliland to put up as good a fight as possible, inflict as much damage and loss upon the Italians as it could, and then withdraw.

This was done, all the British forces evacuated without loss, ^{and} ~~even~~ every British gun was saved except two lost in the earlier stages of the ^{short} ~~two weeks~~ campaign. The greater part of the material and ^{all} ~~store~~ of equipment ^{were} ~~was~~ also drawn away, ~~and the remainder destroyed.~~

^{London says} ~~The British say~~ all this was accomplished with heavy losses to the Black Shirt forces of the Italians and small casualties on the British side.

BATTLE

(a lull in the)

There was ~~no~~ battle ~~over~~ ^{of} Britain today. The Nazis make the explanation that this was due to bad flying weather. ^{Anyhow} What they lacked in the force of their ^{actual} ~~bombing~~ ^{today} attacks, they made up for in the violence of their threats. "Even if the weather ~~impedes the~~ delays ~~our attacks~~ ^{us} for a week, ten days or two weeks, our strength will still be superior to that of the English," ^{say the Nazis.} Berlin announces that German aircraft production ~~is~~ ^{is} going ahead ~~at~~ full blast in spite of the British raids. And the Nazis promise further that the next phase of the Battle of Britain will make the raids of last week look puny. ^{That} The real attack is yet to come.

^{Berlin} The ~~Nazi Government~~ has forwarded a warning to the British high command through the Swiss ~~Government~~. The warning is intended to insure the proper treatment of parachute troops in case of capture. And it warns the British against the use of a civilian defense corps against parachutists. In other words, the Nazis threaten reprisals, if the British protect themselves, by any means in their power against parachute invaders. The German note even contains an elaborate description of the uniforms worn by parachute soldiers and the equipment they carry.

^{tonight}
But [^]The British report successful attacks on both German and Italian airdromes.

^{more}
Incidentally, there's [^]trouble with the Swiss Government over the raiding near the borders of the mountain republic.

British warplanes bombed Nazi aluminum works across the frontier, after which the general staff of the Swiss Army complained that some foreign ~~air~~planes - not saying of what nationality ~~they were~~ - dropped bombs on a railroad station in Switzerland.

The Swiss Government has also made a formal protest ^{to} [^]at London against those British raids which swept across the Alps

to bomb Mussolini's aviation plants in northern Italy. Swiss anti-aircraft batteries also fired at ^{the passing raiders.} ~~some foreign airplanes.~~

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The most spectacular happening in Britain today was the publishing of a new decree by the Churchill Government. This decree declares that in the event of an invasion of the island, all of England, Wales and Scotland will be combined into one single area, under complete control of the Ministry of Home Security. In effect, this proclaims a government dictatorship in case of invasion, and would establish Sir John Anderson, Minister of Home Security, as

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Dictator. With his twelve regional commissioners, he would have absolute control over the movements of all persons, vehicles and animals in the event of any actual or even apprehended attack.

AMERICAN LEGION

~~THE~~ Uncle Sam's Army Transport ^{the} American Legion,"

will be ~~safe at least~~ from German airplanes and warships. This assurance was given today by the Nazi Embassy at Washington while the steamer with her eight hundred and ninety seven war refugees was on the third day of her cruise home.

At the same time, the Embassy warned the State Department that ^{those refugees are} ~~the American Legion is~~ in grave danger and will be in grave danger for the next twelve hours. The Nazis promise not to attack the ship; ~~by~~ but, they add, they cannot control the mines with which the waters north of Scotland are heavily ^{sewn,} sowed.

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Correspondents ^{asked} ~~ask~~ the State Department why that ^{is} vessel with its cargo of refugees did not take the northerly route by way of Iceland and avoid the mine strewn waters. Acting Secretary Sumner Welles replied that as the "American Legion" is an Army Transport, she is subject to technical considerations and the orders of both the War and the Navy Departments. That's the official explanation -- for anybody who can understand it.

SECRETARY

President Roosevelt put an end to one great source of gossip and conjecture today. People in Washington and elsewhere were making book on who would be Secretary of Agriculture to

succeed Henry Wallace. *The man chosen was* ~~Many of the gossips and pseudo prophets~~

~~were confounded when Mr. Roosevelt promoted~~ *was* Henry Wallace's Number Two man, the Under-Secretary, Claude R. Wickard of Indiana.

This news was preceded by the publication of the text of Wallace's letter of resignation to the President, and the

President's reply to his running mate on the ticket. Both letters, *full of the usual* ~~as you may expect, were full of warm~~ compliments.

Wallace will walk out on the Fifth of September and *play an active roll in* ~~thereby be free to pitch in to~~ the political campaign. *The fact that* Under-Secretary

Wickard, his successor, comes from Indiana, ~~the~~ home state of Wendell Willkie, *is regarded in* ~~So his nomination to be Secretary is considered in~~

Washington ~~to be pretty shrewd campaigning.~~ *as a political move,*

~~Aside from that, Wickard, is a practical farmer. He~~ *of* graduated ~~from~~ Purdue University ~~to~~ become manager of a farm near

Camden, Indiana, which he now owns. He has come up through the Department of Agriculture in one step after another ever since he

first joined in August, Nineteen Thirty-Three.

His
Wickard's job as Under-Secretary will be taken by

Paul H. Appleby of Iowa, whose present ~~job is~~ Assistant to the Secretary. Appleby is a Missouri man by birth, an ex-newspaper man, *who* published papers in Montana, Iowa, Washington and Missouri, *and* wrote editorials for ~~that mid-western Bible,~~ the REGISTER-TRIBUNE of Des Moines, Iowa. ~~Appleby has been assistant to Wallace since~~ ~~Nineteen Thirty-Three.~~

DAILY NEWS

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Few newspapers have ever been in such a peculiar and interesting situation as that of the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS today. As you doubtless know, its principal stockholder and until recently editor and publisher, was Colonel Frank Knox, the Secretary of the Navy in the Democratic Roosevelt Cabinet. When Colonel Knox took his place in the Cabinet, he notified his Board of Directors that he wouldn't have time for any newspaper work. So he appointed a three-man board to run the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, so long as he's running the Navy. Thereupon, Colonel Knox's name was dropped from the masthead on the editorial page.

Today, there's an editorial on the front page of the CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, announcing that the paper of Colonel Knox, Secretary of the Navy in the Roosevelt Cabinet, is in favor of the election of Wendell Willkie for President of the United States. Then the editorial goes on to explain that this is on the basis of Willkie's acceptance speech at Elwood, Indiana, last Saturday. And There's a string ^{to the} ~~on that~~ endorsement. The editorial board of the CHICAGO NEWS reserve^s the right to change ^{its} ~~their~~ minds in case Willkie wavers or weakens in the vital policy of foreign affairs and national defense.

CANADA

Here's ^a ~~one~~ Canadian point of view on ^l ~~that~~ defense agreement ^l
just worked out
between the United States and Canada. It comes from a man who

has for years been a bitter opponent of Prime Minister

MacKenzie King, ~~That is, the Right Honorable Mitchell Hepburn,~~

Prime Minister of the Province of Ontario. ~~And he described~~ *Hepburn*

~~that agreement between MacKenzie King and President Roosevelt,~~

calls it ~~in his own words, "as~~ the most advanced political gesture in

the history of the North American Continent." However, he added

an "if" ~~to that.~~ "Provided," he said, "it is applied to the

immediate arming of the two countries. ^l ~~and help to Great Britain."~~

As for ^{opinion} ~~the attitude~~ on this side of the border, even

~~the~~ isolationist Congressmen in Washington approve the idea of

^l ~~that~~ joint defense board. But, said the isolationists, the

functions of such a Canadian-United States Board should be

advisory. And they threw out a reminder to the White House that

any formal alliance ^{must} ~~has got to~~ be ratified by the Senate, ~~which~~

according to our ~~of course the~~ Constitution, ~~demands.~~

Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, who frequently challenges

the New Deal, found the idea acceptable and offered to cooperate

in every way he could. ~~Even~~ Young Senator Rush Holt of West Virginia, one of the bitterest anti-Roosevelt partisans, spoke in favor of the agreement because, he said, the defenses of Canada and the United States are directly inter-related.

~~However, he added, if Canada wants us to defend her she owes it to us not to transport the British Empire to this hemisphere.~~

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Mr. Roosevelt, over the telephone from Hyde Park, gave instructions to all the essential departments in Washington to get busy and set up the machinery for quick action on that joint defense board. In fact, it is understood that he let it be known he wanted this done by Thursday. Such were his instructions to the Departments of State, of War, and of the Navy. The plan is that the American members of the Board should be nominated so that they can meet with the Canadian members early next week.

In Canada, Prime Minister MacKenzie King had a conference with J. R. Ralston, Minister of Defense. There'll be a Cabinet Council at Ottawa tomorrow, when the Canadian members will probably be appointed. It is believed that this will open the way for cooperation between the general staffs of the United States and Canada.

GREEN

Here's the viewpoint of one labor leader on conscription.

William ^{F.} Green, President of the American Federation, ~~of Labor,~~

says he is not opposed to compulsory training if it ^{is} ~~becomes~~

absolutely necessary; but he thinks we ought to try a campaign

for voluntary enlistment first.

Green also joins the people who are in favor of

helping Great Britain in every way short of war. ^{But} ~~At the same~~

^{with} ~~time,~~ no active joining in the European conflict. "We can do

many things without war," says Green, and he urges that we go

the limit, whatever that may be. Then he gave indirect approval

to the defense agreement with Canada, and ~~he~~ said the United

States should rally to the support of the Dominion if it were

ever attacked.

One of the topics for argument today was that speech by Bill Bullitt, our Ambassador to France. I mean the speech he made in Philadelphia with the burden that the United States was in grave danger from Hitler, as great a peril today as was France a

year ago. And he said further, that people who are lulling us into a false sense of security are playing the dictator's game.

He observed the Nazis in action with all their motorized and mechanized equipment and has never seen one piece of that equipment break down.

All this aroused the ire of the isolationist Congressmen Senator Worth, Clark of Idaho, declared that Bullitt obviously hadn't written the speech himself, because it was a masterpiece.

Senator Ashurst of Arizona spoke a bit more sympathetically. He said he supposed the Ambassador spoke that way because he had a lot of things buttoned up in his bosom which he couldn't hold any longer.

But that apparently was not the way the remarks of Ambassador Bullitt struck the people who heard him in Philadelphia. The crowd that listened to him in Independence Square, just a few feet away from the Liberty Bell, was composed of all sorts and conditions of

people, including two fellow Ambassadors, Biddle, envoy to Poland, and Cudahy, who recently returned from the Embassy in Brussels. Likewise federal judges and Admiral Watson, Commander of the Philadelphia Navy Yard. And Roland S. Morris, former Ambassador to Japan. All seemed impressed by Bullitt's warning. "That only the British fleet stands today between the Americas and the dictatorships." He warned Americans that the United States no doubt will not go to war, but that war is coming to the Americas, whether we admit it or not.

And now Hugh, cheer us up.