

P.L. - Sunoco Tuesday, Aug. 3, 1943

Stories today about last night's bombing of Hamburg reveal a picture of fantastic terror for the R.A.F. flyers. They lost thirty bombers during the ninth attack in ten days on Germany's great seaport. ^{and} The trouble ^{this time was} ~~was~~ not the enemy, but the weather. The bombers flew through a stupendous electrical storm, and the tempest of wind, rain, lightning and thunder was at its violent climax right over the target -- Hamburg. The pilots were blinded by the glaring flashes of lightning, and there was so much electricity in the air that blue sparks flashed from the fuselages of planes and crackled on gun barrels. Instruments operating electrically were put out of commission.

Today flying officer George Wigley of the R.A.F. stated: "I have been on four recent raids, but this was the ^daddy of the lot. ^{and, he added: -} Even the compasses were useless." "I never imagined a storm like this one."

Pilots told how their giant bombers were blown upside down by the violent blasts of wind, and flying officer Frank Solomon of New York related that his ship, hit by a downward lash of the storm, fell out of control from ~~an~~ nineteen thousand feet

-- more than two miles.

Icing conditions were frightful. Frozen masses accumulated on the wings and overloaded the planes, and this was the reason for most of the losses -- the big bombers forced down by ice.

"The Germans can take no credit for what happened," a pilot stated today. "It was all storm. You couldn't climb, and," he added, "it was actually a relief to see flak. That at least was something we could understand."

The German night fighter opposition was nil, the Nazi pilots never dreamed of taking off in such a storm.

On the ground it must have been just as terrifying. Hamburg must have thought ^{right} that in such an inferno of the elements, the bombers would not appear -- not on that wild and stormy night. But, as the rain poured down and thunder and lightning crashed -- there were added crashes, the bursting of bombs, bombs that have been leveling Hamburg to the ground.

Reports from Denmark are that forty-five thousand acres of the seaport, seven square miles, have been completely

destroyed, and that some two hundred thousand people have been killed during the eleven days of continual bombing. Sweden tells us that the German authorities have ordered all the remaining inhabitants out of Hamburg, and adds that the great seaport is -- "No longer an organized city."

London air authorities, however, are more cautious. They refuse to concede that Hamburg has been entirely eliminated. Today the air ministry stated that last night's assault, in its own words, "brings the battle of Hamburg one step nearer to the decisive stage." In other words, the R.A.F. intends to continue its culminating attempt to show that a great city can be knocked out of the war by air power.

RUSSIA

Moscow announces that Red Army troops are now ~~within~~

within five miles of Orel. They got that close by capturing

S-t-i-c-h --
a place called Stich -- and apparently they have only a few

-- or furlongs --
stitches to go to complete the elimination of the Orel salient.

Today was the twenty-third day of the huge Soviet offensive designed to wipe out one of the most important Nazi positions on the Russian front. Moscow indicates that Soviet forces are now about to complete their first big victory of the summer.

ITALY

Word from Italy tonight tells of new and widespread demonstrations for peace -- these particularly in the great industrial city of Milan. Advices from Switzerland tell of great strikes in Milan today, with crowds of workers surging to the public square in front of the historic cathedral. There they shouted "peace", and defied the forces of police.

The factory workers staged a strike yesterday, but this was temporary -- a half an ~~hour~~ hour sit down to express the desire for peace. Then the workers waited for news about moves to end the war. When no news was received, they simply failed to show up at work today. They marched through the streets to the cathedral square and shouted the slogan -- "immediate peace"!

This sort of thing happened throughout the industrial sections of North Italy. At Genoa, the anti-war demonstrations also took an anti-Badoglio turn. The head of the Government was denounced for his failure to bring a prompt end to ~~hostilities~~ hostilities. ~~Violence~~ Violence developed, with crowds fighting against the police. Hundreds of persons are said to have been injured, as the police forces swung with sabres.

The authorities succeeded in breaking up the crowds, but the workers refused to return to their jobs. Instead, they jammed motion picture houses. There they saw film scenes of events since the overthrow of Mussolini. They cheered the king, but hissed Badoglio -- for not making peace. And in some theatres the people shouted : "We want American films again."

ADD ITALY

What is the Badoglio Government doing? That of course is shrouded in secrecy, but there are plenty of signs that negotiations of one sort or another have been going on, and that Bagoglio has been trying to patch up an arrangement whereby Italy can get out of the war and lapse into neutrality. But that is impossible! - not the Eisenhower way.

Today the ~~NEW~~ ROME radio broadcast what it alleged to be the latest peace terms laid down by President Roosevelt. These include the recognition of a British-American-Soviet government over ~~an~~ Italy until hostilities have been concluded, the handing over of all Italian materials of war to the Allies, the release of allied war prisoners in Italy and the arrest of war criminals. It is by no means clear how far this Rome ~~version~~ version represents the real thing.

In Sicily, British, American and Canadian troops have smashed a ~~new~~ breach in the Mt. Etna line, Scoring advances from seven to twelve miles, they have driven wedges into the Axis front based on the famous volcano. Three key points have been captured, with the Allies beating down fierce resistance by the German ~~xxxx~~

forces. There was bitter street fighting in towns, and allied troops had heavy going through the jagged country around ~~the~~ Mt. Etna where the terrain is as wild as terrain is likely to be in the vicinity of great volcanos.

One of the places captured was Reggabuto, which was stormed by the British, and this threatens to cut off the Germans who are still defending Catania.

In London today, Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated that the General offensive began on Sunday, developed into a full battle on Monday, and today was raging as an all-out offensive - a culminating blow to annihilate the enemy at the eastern tip of ~~Italy~~ Sicily.

One picturesque operation tells of British warships starting an avalanche across a key highway and railroad. Naval guns ~~have~~ hurled salvos of shells into ^{a heaving} ~~the~~ rocky cliff. And that started a huge rock slide, which ~~was~~ poured down over the highway and railroad.

Another item tells about what they call - "Crazy man's Creek." That's a ~~new~~ name which light naval forces give to the ~~the~~ Straits of Messina, famous from the earliest times for tricky

and dangerous currents. The Greeks called it Scylla and Charibdis,^K
and now it is "Crazy man's creek".

NEGRO TROOPS

Here's one that should be rated as the war story of the week. It comes from Sicily, from a port on the east coast of that island, where the disembarkation of troops was going on.

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At the dock, a lot of Sicilians were lounging around -- watching in a friendly way. A ship was being unloaded, and off came a regiment of negro troops. The Sicilians, unfamiliar with such dusky faces, stared with lively interest.

One of the loiterers could not restrain his curiosity. He went to a British officer and asked:

"What kind of soldiers are these?"

The Britisher, a man with a grim sense of humor obviously, replied: "Oh, those fellows? Why they're Ethiopians, who have been specially trained to come to Sicily and Italy to get revenge for the Ethiopian War."

This word spread immediately, and you should have seen the Sicilians vanish. In a matter of seconds, not one was in sight.

ETHIOPIA

One much debated question of the day concerns the punishment which ~~should~~ should be inflicted on Mussolini, and plenty of people are saying that it would be dramatic justice to turn over the former black shirt dictator to the country that was his number one victim -- Ethiopia. In other words, let Haile Selassie have the erstwhile Duce.

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So what does the emperor of Ethiopia himself think about the matter? Why not ask Haile Selassie himself? The United Press did, and today issues an article by Haile Selassie on the subject of the downfall of Mussolini. Here are some of the things that it says:

"The Duce's crimes," writes the Ethiopian Emperor, have been many and serious. Having been one of his ~~most~~ victims, Ethiopia sees in Mussolini's passing the beginning of those forces of justice and ~~humanity~~ ^{humanity} that he so brutally defied for twenty-one years."

And to this Haile Selassie adds the following: "I have been asked if, in the post-war international court, Ethiopia will ask to be permitted to punish Mussolini. ~~But~~ ^{ment" say} punished, ~~this~~ ^{is} only the negative aspect of reestablishing the principles of ^{the son of Judah,}

international justice. Ethiopia," he adds, "is interested less

in vengeance for the past than in justice for the future." And for

~~that~~ Hail and Heil Haile Selassie!

putting it that way, we probably should both

PACIFIC

In the southwestern Pacific, a word from the two sectors of battle indicate^s that United Nations victories may be expected soon. The two centers of fighting are the central Solomons and New Guinea.

Allied headquarters tells us that in the central Solomons American troops have scored new gains on New Georgia Island in their drive against the Munda Air Base. Our soldiers are now at the eastern end of the airfield. The Japs are fighting as bitterly as ever -- but not so strongly. Their strength^s seems to be playing out, as United States Army troops and marines keep hammering away with tanks, artillery and flame throwers.

A spokesman at allied headquarters said today that the battle for Munda seems to be in its final stage, and the capture of the airfield may be expected soon.

Similarly, in New Guinea, Australians and Americans are closing in on Salamua. The Allies have driven so close to that important base, that their batteries of artillery now have Salamua under direct fire -- for the first time.

SHIPS

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The United States is transferring to Great Britain a lot of newly built cargo ships, these to operate under the British Flag. The disclosure was made today by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the London House of Commons. He stated that the merchant vessels the Americans are handing over to the British number a hundred and fifty, and the figure may be boosted to two hundred.

Churchill read a letter from President Roosevelt on the subject, and stated that when he met the President shortly after Pearl Harbor they discussed the shipping situation, They realized that the United States had a huge lot of materials for a giant shipbuilding program, while Britain was short of materials to continue its own schedule. So they decided it would be better for the United States to do the building with material over here, instead of sending supplies to Britain for construction there. Churchill agreed that the British would curtail their program, and in return the United States would transfer ships to Britain.

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Today Churchill made the further point that, because of *of British ship construction a great number of* the halting ~~of British~~ British crews have been left without ships. There's no sense in keeping them idle, and that's another reason for

SHIPS - 2

handing over American built vessels to the British -- ships for
the idle crews to sail.

COAL

Today in Washington was witnessed the novel spectacle of John L. Lewis pleading before the war labor board. Time and again the chief of the miners union renounced the W L B and said he would never recognize its jurisdiction. But today he took his bushy eyebrows and bull-fiddle voice to the W L B, and at a three hour hearing argued for an approval of the contract the miners union has made with the Illinois coal operators.

The W L B took the case under advisement and a decision is likely to be handed down within the next two weeks.

OAKES

Today's news bring a weirdly dramatic turn in the sensational murder mystery down in the tropical Bahamas, the killing of the multi-millionaire Sir Harry Oakes, He was a close friend of the Duke of Windsor, Governor of the Bahamas, and the former Edward the Eighth was said to be taking an active party in the investigation of the crime.

In any case, that investigation is now going on, with the finger of suspicion pointed at the son-in-law of the murdered multi-millionaire. This son-in-law is a French nobleman, Count Alfred De Marigny, who married Sir Harry's daughter, the nineteen year old Nancy Oakes. The immensely wealthy father opposed the marriage, and the supposition is that there was enmity between him and his son-in-law.

Today's wierdly dramatic turn concerns a number one murder clue. The aged multi-millionarie had been badly beaten. He was found on his bed, which was burning -- the bed apparently having been set afire to conceal the crime. Detectives, searching for evidence, found signs to indicate that, in setting the fire, the murderer had been ^{singed} ~~sigant~~ -- his hair burned. With this clue in mind they went to Count Alfred De Marigny -- who, to make things

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more spectacular, is a man of striking appearance, with a full black beard.

Today in court, a detective testified that when he examined De Marigny, he found ~~z~~ what he called "a considerable quantity of burned hair" on the son-in-law's arms, head and beard.

Asked about this De Marigny said he had no idea how his arms, head, and beard had been singed. Then later he said he thought the hair must have been burned while he was scalding chickens at his farm.

Still later he added the opinion that he might have been singed while lighting candles. He explained that he doesn't like electric light, and ~~has~~ has none in his house. He prefers candle light.

So there ~~x~~ you have an eerie twister -- the French count who ~~lx~~ at home lives by the light of candles and who says the candles are the reason for his burned hair, while the evidence in the crime indicates that in the murder the killer was singed.

The detective, testifying today, stated that a search in the De Marigny home revealed only one peculiar thing -- the absence of the shirt the count wore on the night of the murder.

No trace of it could be found.

And now just one thing more - a word from Hugh.