

L.J. - Sunco. Friday, Aug. 23, 1940.

About the war -- ~~the~~ German ~~xxx~~ big guns on the French coast were still shelling the shore of Britain today. No great damage done, say the British. And London reports that Royal Air Force bombers have been showering high explosive on the Nazi Big Berthas. ~~But~~ there's no indication of how effective this may have been. The British are inclined to regard the Big Berthas bombardment as mostly show business, though Berlin was saying today that the shelling of the British coast marks the zero hour for Britain! -- ~~Another~~ zero hour.

~~Nazi~~ Berlin air raids today were sporadic, bombs dropped here and there. Areas of homes were wrecked in some places. Berlin admits that the Nazi sky war has slackened a good deal. Because of ~~xxx~~ bad weather, ^{that's what} say the Germans. ~~still say.~~

FRENCH RELIEF

~~Taxxxx~~ Today's news brings an alarming report about the food situation in France. The report is issued by the Quaker Relief Group that is doing work of mercy in Europe. The Quakers declare that they have made a survey which indicates that three million French children will be in desperate need of milk this winter. One of the Quaker Relief authorities is Doctor Joseph Stokes of Philadelphia, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He states his opinion in these words:- "If France," says he, "does not get vitamins by Christmas, more children will die this winter than France had men killed in the war." And that means milk ~~xxx~~ -- and other foods rich in vitamins.

PARIS

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There were anti-Semitic disorders in Paris today.

Crowds of boys belonging to a youth organization stormed along the stately Champs Elysee and attacked Jewish owned shops, smashing windows and getting into fights. The leader of the anti-Semitic youth outfit issued a statement that today's rioting is only the beginning of a concerted campaign against the Jews in France.

ARGENTINE

The Republic of Argentina is in a political ferment tonight. Yesterday President Ortiz resigned as head of the nation. That brought political affairs to a state of tension, and today the excitement was heightened by a pistol shot. One of the prominent figures in the situation killed himself.

At the center of the trouble is what the Argentines call - "the Falconer land scandal." This reads like a not unfamiliar sort of affair. The Argentine Army bought a tract of land for a new airfield, and the claim now is that the Government paid a fantastic price for the property - five times its real value. Various political figures are accused of having taken a cut in the profit. Among these was a member of the Argentine Parliament, a politician named Guillot. He was charged with having received seventy-five hundred pesos in the deal. Deputy Guillot appeared before an investigating committee and protested his innocence. He told friends that if the committee report did not clear him and proclaim his innocence - he would commit suicide. The committee report was made, and today the deputy carried out his threat - shot himself.

This caused a furore of dramatic excitement in Buenos Aires, the more so because the case of the deputy had some relation to that of the resigned president. Ortiz quit office yesterday because that same investigating-committee-report implied that he himself was responsible to some extent in the Palomar Land Scandal. He felt himself accused.

It is believed that the Ortiz' resignation will be rejected by the Argentine Congress, which is scheduled to consider it tomorrow. Today the bulk of Argentine opinion seemed to be that Ortiz should remain in office as President. Newspaper comment in B.A. is that he is oversensitive, that there was not enough about him in the land scandal affair to justify his resignation.

CRASH

The Army air tragedy in Colorado was related in full today - as fully as it ever will be. It happened last night, but the Army withheld the news for twelve hours - until it was possible to get to the scene of the crash. This was ^{over one of} ~~in the~~ *the wildest sections* ~~Bad Lands~~ of the Colorado Mountains, a place inaccessible to automobiles. There today they found the wreckage of one of the Army's crack bombers - blown to shattered bits. And now the story is released.

It tells how two big army planes went on - a "night bombing mission". The one that was destined to destruction carried a cargo of seventeen bombs. Of these it dropped two. The weather was bad, and the pair of planes started back to their base - flying together. They had not a great deal further to go, when the ill-fated craft disappeared in a thunderhead. Now, a thunderhead is one of the fearsome phenomena of nature, a towering mass of giant ~~skxxx~~ clouds, the dark and misty container of an electrical storm - the home of thunder and lightning. A plane in a thunderhead is in a tough spot. The last word from the unlucky bomber was a wireless message to the other plane. "Can't see you," was the word by

radio. No, the bomber in a thunderhead could ~~not see anything~~ ^{it see a}.
The men in the other craft heard just one thing more - a crash,
and, an explosion.

Today Army men said it might have been a case of
hail ~~xxx~~ or of lightning. Both were in the thunderhead - a
barrage of ice and a blaze of electricity. At the scene of the
crash were bushels of hail stones. A ~~xxxxx~~ deluge of these
might have forced the bomber down. Or lightning might have
struck it.

In any case, the bomber exploded with terrific
violence. The plane and the nine men in it were, as the Army
report states - "blown to bits". ^H Was it an explosion of the
bombs? The war plane had aboard fifteen of its original
seventeen. But, no, - it was not a bomb explosion. Army men
said that none of the fifteen bombs had blown up in the crash.
Anyway, they were mere - "target bombs.". The kind used in
practice. ~~They're~~ ^C Constructed to give off a black puff of
smoke when they burst - no violent detonation. The terrific
blast that blew the plane and crew to bits was caused by the
explosion of the gas tanks. These blew up with a tremendous
burst of flame when the ^t bomber in a thunderhead crashed in ~~the~~ ^a
~~Bad Lands~~ ^{remote section} of the Colorado Mountains.

ROBBERY

There ^qwas a Wild West train robbery in New York City ~~is~~ today, sensational. ~~The one that happened today was also ironical~~ with a mordant touch of mockery. The keynote of the ~~xxx~~ melodramatic affair was careful planning and skillful execution -- but the expert robbers made one mistake, one painful error. ~~So tonight those bandits must be as disappointed as they are expert.~~

The early morning Albany local pulled out of Grand Central, and ~~went speeding north~~ -- with some thirty passengers aboard. One of the stops was the Marble Hill station in Upper Manhattan. There, as the train came to a halt, six bandits went into swift action, ~~with clock like precision.~~

~~xxx~~ Their plan was that nobody, save the trainmen whom they held up should know what was going on. Fix it so that the train would go on from the ~~xxx~~ Marble Hill stop without any alarm being given. So ^Tthree of the robbers ~~xxx~~ held up the conductor, brakeman and another trainman, and forced them into an empty car. The bandits knew that the train was carrying an empty passenger car. Yes, they were well informed. They kept the trainmen prisoners during the normal time for the

stop at the station, and then ordered the conductor to pull the air brake cord. Signal the engineer -- "go ahead." The conductor tried to fool them. He pulled the air brake cord - once. A bandit turned on him sharply. "You know the signal is two," he snapped threateningly. Yes, these robbers knew their ^{railroading.} onions. The conductor pulled the cord twice, the orthodox signal. The train started. As it gathered up speed, the three robbers jumped off.

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Meanwhile, the other three bandits were playing their part just as expertly -- perfect coordination. They were holding up two mail clerks in the baggage car. They demanded - "Where is the Yonkers mail sack?" They knew exactly what they wanted. They quickly spotted the Yonkers mail sack, and grabbed it. ~~They~~ ^{They} bothered with nothing else - just the sack of mail being shipped to Yonkers. Then they jumped off the moving train.

As soon as the alarm was given a manhunt started, and immediately the question was raised -- what was in the Yonkers mail bag? Why had the six bandits staged their bold and daring crime just to seize that one collection of mail?

RETAKE

Obviously, they must have had information that something exceedingly valuable was in it.

Next came an announcement by an official ~~xxx~~ of the Post Office Department. He stated that the stolen bag contained letters from Washington to Yonkers -- all of a strictly personal sort. Just letters to friends of relatives or business communications, -- nothing of any value. So why had the bandits stolen all that -- just worthless paper?

Then came ^{the} an illuminating revelation. One day a week that same New York Central train carries a large sum of money in the Yonkers mail bag, a one hundred thousand dollar payroll consigned to a manufacturing company in Yonkers. That happens one day a week -- but ~~this~~ was not the day. ^{So} The robbers ^{had} made just one ~~xxxx~~ mistake:-- In their minutely planned and skillfully staged train robbery, they picked the right train and the right mail bag -- but the wrong day. That's ^{was} the irony in the sensational New York City train robbery.

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WILLKIE

That loud report you may have heard this ~~afternoon~~ afternoon was a big gun that Willkie was firing. The Republican candidate loaded up the artillery with all the ammunition he could cram in and let fly with as much noise as the gun would make. The shot concerned the W.P.A., the relief rolls.

Willkie made the observation that during July the number of people on W.P.A. increased sharply, a relief boost of ninety thousand. It wasn't this simple fact all by itself which drew the blast from the G.O.P. candidate. He proceeded to give out some W.P.A. figures for previous years, and he didn't intend them to be any mere exercise in mathematics. Wendell Willkie had deep meanings when he propounded the numbers.

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He noted that in Nineteen Thirty-three, the relief rolls declined, were reduced more than fifteen per cent from June through October. Nineteen Thirty-three - said Willkie with an arch look, was not an election year. But ~~Nineteen~~ Nineteen Thirty-four was, and during the summer campaign for Congress W.P.A. went up for an increase of more than eleven per cent. Nineteen Thirty-five, another non-election year, showed a W.P.A. drop of more than nine per cent during the summer months.

Nineteen thirty-six was a presidential year, and there was a relief increase of more than fourteen per cent. Non-election Nineteen Thirty-seven, a decline of nearly seventeen per cent. In Nineteen Thirty-eight, in which there were Congressional elections, W.P.A. went up more than nineteen per cent. Last year, Nineteen Thirty-nine, no election, and a drop of more than twenty-five per cent.

It isn't difficult to perceive the profundity of the Willkie ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ reasoning. He intimates that when there's an election coming, up goes W.P.A. When there are no votes to be fought for, down goes W.P.A. He would seem to suggest that relief is like Mr. Dooley, ^{who} ~~he~~ marched them up and he marched them down - all depending upon politics. So you see the subtle flash of Willkie meaning when he gives the W.P.A. figure for this ace-high election year and states that in July the relief rolls went up to the tune of ninety thousand.

Having figured everything out, the Republican candidate proceeded to issue a denunciation. He declared that the W.P.A. increase in July was a violation of the Hatch Law, that act designed to eliminate corrupt practices in politics.

The ups and downs of W.P.A. seem like a decidedly corrupt practice to Willkie, and he calls upon Attorney General Jackson to make an investigation. ^R Jackson may prosecute, or again he may not.

ROOSEVELT

~~xxx~~ President Roosevelt today came out flatly in favor of the Conscription Bill now being debated in Congress.

Hitherto, the President has spoken in favor of the general principal of selective service. Now, he gives his support to the specific bill before Congress. The battle is still raging in the Senate with all kinds of prospect of delay. The President stated today that national defense requires action on conscription in the next two weeks. He declared that the way voluntary enlistments are going, it would take the Army a year to get the first batch of four hundred thousand men it wants. It would take another year to get another four hundred thousand. The President added that right now the Army has basic equipment for the soldiers who would be drafted when the bill passes.

F.D.R. supported his contention with weighty arguments, some of which, however, brought a blush ~~to the presidential cheek. Why the maidenly modesty? Well, it is to be observed that today's statement was issued to the regular White House Press Conference attended by the Washington newspaper men. Also -- newspaper women. So it was what is known as mixed-~~

~~company, and we all know we must be discreet about the kind of stories we tell when ladies are present. In discussing Army~~

~~equipment,~~ The President came to one point which caused him to stop and apologize to the newspaper women. He spoke of underwear. No, not the ^{flimsy,} filmy laces that girl ~~reporters~~ reporters might wear, not lingerie.

The presidential theme was soldiers' underwear, which is not ordinarily decorated with lace. Not in the Army. His theme was, that if, for example, there was a shortage of Army underwear, it wouldn't make so much difference, because plenty of that sort of thing could be had in the stores of the nation. The underwear logic completely convinced the press conference, ~~including the blushing girl reporters.~~ ^{— or maybe not-so-blushing —} You know - that shrinking bashful modesty of newspaper women.

~~There was not only delicacy and refinement at today's White House conference, there was also mystification. The President, speaking of Army equipment, mentioned the walkie-talkie. Now what's a walkie-talkie - except maybe a buck private having a conversation while he's drilling. No, it's not that at all. The President explained that a ~~xxx~~ "walkie-talkie" is a portable~~

DRIVING

This being the Nu-Blue Sunoco program, ^{it is altogether} ~~it's~~ appropriate

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to relate a few revelations about driving - revelations that we have today from the Public Roads Administration. They made a survey of the driving habits of motorists, ~~the characteristics of people when they fill up with Nu-Blue and go buzzing along.~~

First, There's a difference between youth and age. Younger persons drive faster than their elders - as one might suspect.

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And those same elders drive ~~older~~ older cars than the youngsters, which seems fitting - age for age.

Now here's an odd one:- Drivers commonly enter cities faster than they leave them. I suppose you get tuned to a slower clip while passing through a town.

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On yes, ^{And} the difference between men and women?

~~You know, the much abused woman driver. What about her?~~ ^{well} The

little woman drives almost as fast as you do, chief. And she's a safer driver. ~~She pushes along only a little more~~

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~~slowly than you do, and a good deal more safely. Which would~~

~~seem to indicate that she's at least as skillful a driver.~~

That may provoke a few family arguments. So let's get along

to Hugh James. There's no argument about what he's going to

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tell you. ^{So tell us about Nu Blue Hugh, I mean you Hugh.}