

L.J. - Sinoco. Tuesday, Aug. 13, 1940.

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Describing the war in the air, Britain is using the word - "crescendo". The German sky fleet attack is increasing day after day in a crescendo of aerial warfare. London estimates that today six hundred Nazi warplanes roared over Britain for a whirlwind of air battle. Everywhere on a front of a hundred miles there was incessant fighting aloft, combat from dawn to dusk - as the squadrons of the R.A.F. battled

against the attacking sky ^{armada} ~~fleet~~ ^{IT} It was cloudy over the isle

of Britain today. ^{And the} Warplanes battled above the clouds, and

plunged down through them ~~imbvink~~ in bombing dives. There were

heavy bombing attacks on important points like ^{Portsmouth and} Southampton;

and, ^{IT} the bombers ranged far inland. Today, as has been the

case for the past four days, the biggest air battle ever

was fought - the magnitude of the sky struggle increasing

from day to ^{--- in a} ~~xxx~~ day - crescendo.

The London newspapers are saying - ^{this is the} ~~this is the~~

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blitzkrieg. They are describing it as the culminating

violence of the sky, to be followed perhaps by the long

awaited attempt at invasion. This ominous British newspaper

view seemed the more likely, because of a ~~xxx~~ claim issued in Berlin. The Nazis are boasting of the zero hour, and German military authorities today announced that the Hitler sky fleet had ^{today} achieved control of the air over ^{the port of} Dover. That British ^{Sea} port ^{— on the Channel —} is the nearest point to German controlled France -

a mere twenty-two miles from Calais. There a Nazi armada would have the shortest space of water to traverse for a landing in England. If the Hitler forces ~~xi~~ did mean to launch their attack at that point, obviously they'd try first of all to obtain control of the air over Dover. ^{TR} British military authorities, however, discounted the notion today - pointing out that the Dover area is precisely the most formidable stretch of English coast for an invasion - protected by the famous chalk cliffs, those steep cliffs which line the shore and are a natural rampart. Moreover, said British military men, even if the Germans did achieve air control over Dover it wouldn't mean so much. Domination of the sky ^{at any one} ~~one~~ ~~xxx~~ mere point would be insignificant.

British military men are ~~ixx~~ interpreting the

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crescendo of the aerial blitzkrieg in a different fashion. They say that the Germans, as a prime objective, are smashing with bombs at the British military airports near the Coast - trying to knock them out to keep the British fighters from using them for a short distance attack^s and quick refueling. The Nazi plan would be to eliminate the nearby airports and then strike at the ones further back, wiping out the flying facilities progressively, further and further. This tends to make clear the strategy of winning[^] ^{control of} the air, as the Germans are trying to practice it - knocking out the near by airports and then the ones further on, striking at the elaborate equipment that modern military flying fields must have, smashing up the coordinated air defense with which Great Britain is protecting itself.

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British military authorities are saying that the blitzkrieg of the air has not reached a climax. ^{As stated the} ~~the~~ Nazis launched six hundred planes in today's assault, but the [^] height of air fury won't be reached until they send over a thousand a day. ^R The British authorities believe that Hitler

is prepared to sacrifice five thousand planes to win the air mastery over Britain - if he can. Then probably will come the attempt to invade. Meanwhile British observation planes report that they have not yet spotted any huge concentration of boats, such as would be needed for a landing on the tight little isle.

Meanwhile, the R.A.F. is counter-attacking - hurling air raids against German bases. Today they bombed a series of important points in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany itself - doing heavy damage. Tremendous ~~exp~~ explosions, huge fires.

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The losses on both sides are as widely contradictory as ever. London reports that fifty-seven Nazi planes were shot down today, while only nine R.A.F. fighters were lost. Berlin claims that up to noon alone, sixty-nine British planes had been destroyed, as against only a few of the Nazi sky fighting craft. ~~These extreme contradictions day after day are obscuring the real result of the battle of the sky over Britain.~~

Here are the total figures which London and Berlin respectively give for three days of wholesale air fighting.

London claims that a hundred and eighty-three German planes

were shot down during ^{the past} ~~these~~ three days as against sixty-

four lost by the British. Berlin puts it this way:-

planes destroyed, two hundred and ~~xi~~ fifty-four British as

against fifty-four German.

These extreme ~~xxxxxxxx~~ contradictions day after day are obscuring the real result of the battle of the sky over Britain.

~~~~~ ○ ~~~~~  
Even an aerial blitzkrieg has its lighter side.

An incendiary bomb today hit the roof of a house in Kent.

It went right through the roof -- and landed in a bath

tub full of water. *But the lady was not in her bath.*

GUNS

There's a good deal of doubt tonight about the story that German <sup>giant long range</sup> ~~big~~ guns are shelling the British coast. Both London and Berlin officially disclaim the idea. Yet from the scene of the supposed shelling the word persists. Eye-witnesses declare that heavy explosions occurred when there were no planes in the sky -- so they couldn't have been air bombs. British World War ~~War~~ Veterans in the ~~vicinity~~ vicinity have examined pieces of the missiles, and declare they're shell fragments. Of course, giant guns can shoot for more than twenty-two miles -- the distance across the narrowest point of the English Channel. ~~xxxx~~ We've heard stories that the Germans are installing huge pieces of artillery at Calais. So shells falling on British soil are entirely possible -- though there's no official support for the story.

NAZIS

We are told today that the dread Hitler Secret Police, the Gestapo, has a headquarters in New York. Masked as a Nazi travel agency, and located in the same building as the German Consulate, just a floor below. There is added drama in the fact that this very place was bombed ~~x~~ a couple of months ago. Apparently - somebody tried to blow up the New York headquarters of the Gestapo;

Another lurid story about the affair is related by Dr. Paul Schwartz, who used to be the German Consul in New York. He was until Hitler took power -- whereupon he resigned from his post because of his opposition to the Nazis. Dr. Paul Schwartz stated today that the travel agency, really the Gestapo headquarters, used to be on the very same floor as the German Consulate. Then it was moved downstairs - because of a rather startling event. Two years ago the present German Consul happened to come upon an envelope containing papers prepared by the head of the supposed travel agency. The consul found that the document consisted of an ~~em~~ elaborate report concerning ~~x~~ himself -- a report being made to Hitler's

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Secret Police in Berlin. Thus he discovered that the Gestapo over ~~me~~ here was spying on him and his doings. This made the Consul so angry that he ~~ixixix~~ insisted that the supposed - to-be travel agency must move out. And the Gestapo moved to the floor below. Such is the story told by the former German Consul.



BROWDER

In Washington today a warrant was issued, and on it was marked the name of - Browder, which has such a familiar Communistic sound. This time, however, it's not Mr. Browder, it's Mrs.<sup>W</sup> The Communist candidate for the presidency is under a prison sentence on passport charges, and now the ~~xxx~~ Immigration Service has called for the arrest of his wife. They want to know whether she is in this country legally. Mrs. Earl Browder is believed to be a Russian woman, who married the Communist leader a year after her arrival in the United States. Is her stay in the country legal, according to the Immigration Laws? That's what the authorities want to find out. So, they've issued a warrant for Mrs. Earl ~~Browder~~ Browder.

MEXICO

That famous Mexican presidential election is ~~★~~ in the news again today. It was held five weeks ago, and still nobody knows who is elected President. It takes a long time to count Mexican votes and then it's a long time before the result is announced. The last we heard - both candidates were loudly claiming victory.

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Today's news gives us a pronunciamiento by General Almazan. He's the opposition candidate, who ran against the Government ~~ment~~ party. The General is not in Mexico - he's in Havana. He said today he was on a vacation. "I came to Cuba for one week", he explained, "and have stayed three." He added that he might also visit Costa Rica and Guatemala. A candidate doing all that vacationing between election day and the announcement of the result - sounds odd.

Today Almazan, in Havana, made a broadcast to the people in Mexico. He declared that the voting had been almost unanimous. The election nearly a hundred percent for Almazan. He announced that ~~next~~ he would be inaugurated as President of the Republic on the first of December. "I know",

quoth he, "that the people are ~~xxxxxxx~~ waiting for me, and I can assure my fellow citizens that their ~~xxxxxxx~~ confidence in me has not been in ~~xxxxxxx~~ vain." So he'll be there on December First to be inaugurated, but meanwhile - he's vacationing in Cuba, and may visit Costa Rica and Guatemala. It seems like quite a tour, General.

KNOX

One of the interesting political facts of the day is that Secretary of the Navy Colonel Frank Knox is a prominent newspaper publisher, a power in journalism. The Colonel, of course, is something of a paradox - former Republican candidate for vice president now in the cabinet of the Democratic New Deal.

Today the Chicago Daily News appeared without the name of Frank Knox on its editorial page. Last week the Colonel told the directors of his paper that his duties as Secretary of the Navy would take all <sup>of</sup> his time. He'd have to retire from journalism for the time being. Today's issue of the Chicago Daily News shows that the place of Frank Knox is now temporarily taken by a three-man group, one of whom is a well known editor, a *colleague of mine in World War days* - Paul Scott Mawrer.

How does the Knox paper stand in the Roosevelt-Willkie fight? Third Term? With Colonel Knox running the journalistic show, the News has taken no stand as between Roosevelt and Willkie. Today, with a three-man directorate installed, the News still took no stand.

## RECRUITS

I hardly know what comment to make on this next one - save that it reminds one of World War days. At that time, people wondered about the large percentage of men in the draft who turned out to be physically unfit. So what do we find right now, as the Army is busily recruiting? Much the same thing. Today the Medical Corps of the Army comes forward with a statement ~~xxxx~~ expressing concern because of the bad physical condition of many of the young men who are seeking to enlist. The medical corps declares that in the New York area at least thirty per cent of the would-be recruits have been rejected - because of such defects as bad teeth, poor vision, flat feet, bad hearing, and general debility. Thirty per cent turned down <sup>and</sup> - that seems like a lot.

SHOOTING

Here's the weirdest ~~xxx~~ shocker the news has brought in a long ~~ixixi~~ time. At Sudbury, Ontario, John Basok, a section hand, wanted to dance. He asked a waitress in the place <sup>of</sup> ~~on~~ entertainment. She refused. Said - no. Whereupon the section hand whipped out a gun and opened fire, shooting the waitress five times. She fell to the floor. The section hand, ~~xxxxix~~ dashing to escape, stumbled over her, fell - and broke his neck. The girl, badly wounded, apparently will recover.

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FIGHT

It sounds like news to say ~~the~~ that Joe Louis scored a complete flop in the ring. But the heavyweight champion did - last night. Joe completely forgot what it was all about. He was the referee of a prizefight at West Haven, Connecticut. Two battlers slugged at each other round after round, and Joe did his stuff as referee. After the last round, the two fighters stood in their corners and waited for the decision. It was up to Joe to proclaim the winner.

Meanwhile, the champ was the center of attraction, and the crowd hailed him with enthusiasm. Joe responded. He responded so much he plumb forgot what it was all about. He must have figured that he was the winner. So, still responding to the cheers, Joe climbed out of the ring, and was on his way - leaving the two fighters standing there. They had to haul Joe back into the ring to get him to give the decision.

He called it a draw.

And now I'll haul Hugh back into the ring to give you the decision in <sup>the</sup> Blue-Sunoco anti-knock fight, which never is a draw.