

POPE

P.I. - Sumaco. Wednesday, Sept 1, 1943

The impression ^{is} ~~is~~ everywhere that the message to the world delivered today by Pope Pius the Twelfth is an utterance of major importance. The timing is highly significant, the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of the war in Europe, September first, Nineteen Thirty Nine, Hitler unloosed the criminal ~~horror~~ horror of the blitzkrieg against unhappy Poland - submitting that brave country to the kind of martyrdom which only Nazi brutality can inflict.

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Today Pope Pius stated: "This is the fourth anniversary of the horrible day on which was launched the most formidable, destructive and devastating war of all times - the war which is opposed by everyone who has a heart and human feeling". And that is shot straight at Hitler and the Nazis, who launched the blow that brought catastrophe.

The papal message sounds an insistent call for peace, and in phrases that are not mere generalities. The Pontiff's message comes mightily specifically to the point with this statement: "Hope must be given to the oppressed ~~men~~ peoples that this year will be the beginning of a new era of reconstruction and peace", says Pope Pius. The mention of hope for oppressed peoples is

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significant. For, who are the oppressors ~~by their~~ but the Nazis?
And what ~~is~~ hope can the oppressed peoples have save in an
allied victory? Then, too, note the time element - "This year,"
says Pope Pius in looking forward to the establishment of peace.

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The Pontiff at Rome in his official pronouncements
chooses words carefully. The Vatican is not given to snap statements.
So what are we to surmise from the papal reference to "This year"?
It would certainly seem to suggest an early deliverance of the
persecuted people - they must be given that hope - says the
Pontiff.

A papal peace declaration with so precise an angle
can hardly fail to exert a good deal of influence - especially
in Italy, where the demand for peace is so insistent.

War anniversary

Yes, ^Ffour years ago today the Nazi super-war machine stormed into Poland, and overran that hapless country. Then eight ~~more~~ months later Hitler swept down on Denmark, took it "by telephone." And now the Danes have had enough of Hitler and the Nazis. After Denmark came Norway, and then the incredibly swift conquest of France and the Low Countries.

^R Military observers are remarking today what a vital mistake Hitler made in not pushing on across the channel; for at that time England was virtually unarmed. Instead, Hitler turned, and his machine rolled over Jugoslavia and Greece. After which he launched his ~~new~~ all-out campaign against the Russian Bear.

Four years have ~~gone by~~ ^{passed}; Mussolini has gone, and Hitler is on his way; and, Tojo may well be shaking in his boots.

— who lives at the White House —

Harry Hopkins predicts that both Germany and Japan

will be defeated by Nineteen Forty-five. In other words, the war will last two more years. This the presidential advisor states as a warning against over-confidence, the rosy belief that the war will be over much sooner. "Two years," says he - and adds that it will be very much longer than that, if the Allies should lose Russia. He doesn't speak of the Soviets as dropping out of the war precisely, but suggests that we must not necessarily count on Russia surviving. We cannot be absolutely sure - even with the Soviets winning all those victories, so reasons Harry Hopkins.

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Writing in the October issue of the American magazine, the Advisor who sits in at the Roosevelt-Churchill conferences, states that the Allies will not be content with mere bombing. *And that* The enemy will be defeated by great coordinated offensives by ~~in~~ land, sea and air - including a huge land assault through France.

CHURCHILL

Late this afternoon Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington. And there he will continue the discussions that he had with President Roosevelt in Canada - the Quebec Conference ~~is~~ now having a Washington postscript.

The understanding is, that the major subject this time will be the arranging of another conference, with Soviet Russia included - not a get-together of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin - but a meeting of the Foreign ~~is~~ Ministers of the three allied powers.

In his radio address on Tuesday, the British Prime Minister suggested that a conference of Foreign Ministers be held - "urgent and necessary", said he.

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Today American Secretary of State Cordell Hull endorsed the idea. He told the news men that such a meeting would help allied collaboration. He refused to say, however, that *he himself*

was
all set to go to some meeting ~~point~~ point overseas - London for example.

here is some illumination ~~on~~ on the controversy .
And ~~xxxxxxx~~

concerning our relations with Soviet Russia. It has been charged

that Stalin has^{not} been informed concerning British-American policy in the Mediterranean - policy with respect to Italy, for example. The Soviets kept in the dark, it has been said. This today was denied officially by the State Department, which issues a declaration that the Moscow government has been kept ~~fully~~ fully informed of all military and political aspects of the conflict in the Mediterranean.

RUSSIA

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In Russia, Soviet forces have wiped out the Germans who were surrounded when Taganrog was captured. And, having ~~been~~ completed the mopping up, the Red Army is rolling on - along the coast of the Black Sea. Further north, they are driving into the heart of the Donets coal basin and are nearing the key city of Stalino.

On the Smolensk front, where the Russians have launched a new offensive, two hundred ~~more~~ towns and villages have been captured - one a place fifty miles east of the Smolensk, key to the whole Nazi defense system in Russia.

BERLIN

One of the greatest air battles in the darkness was fought over Berlin last night. Once again the R.A.F. sallied forth to batter the Nazi capital - the fourth Berlin ^{air}raid in eight days.

R.A.F. armada

The battle began as they drew near the German coast.

The Nazis have concentrated their fighter plane strength for the defense of Berlin, and swarms of night fighters were out.

Innumerable combats were fought in the dark sky - with all the weirdness and terror of air battle at night.

When they got to Berlin, the R.A.F. bombers found something new - Germans adopting a ~~new~~ new technique of night fighting. During the previous great raids by giant bombers, the Nazi defense employed searchlights to pick out the planes and illuminate them. This time it was different - a different kind of lighting. Planes high aloft dropped flares. Soaring above the R.A.F. assailants, they turned loose hundreds of them "about a dozen were dropped at a time", said an R.A.F. pilot today. "They fell very slowly from a good height and burned a brilliant white light. The Germans obviously ^{he added,} were using them to illuminate us as we went in to bomb".

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And that's how the night air battle over Berlin was fought - by the light of descending ~~fx~~ flares.

Faced with the massed concentration of defensive weapons, the R.A.F. lost forty-seven bombers - but they broke through ~~the~~ and smashed Berlin. Huge fires were started in the city that has already been ravaged so much by flame. British pilots ~~am~~ reported that as they left their target, the glow of the fires in Berlin were visible seventy miles away.

ITALY

The news ^{also} tells of a tremendous bombardment in the

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Mediterranean, with a mighty squadron of British warships battering the toe of the Italian boot. Destroyers and cruisers were there - also battleships. Two British sea giants blazed away with concerted salvos, the Nelson and the Rodney - each firing its broadsides with sixteen inch guns, two rounds a minute.

The squadron steaming in the Straits of Messina, hit the shore fortifications with a total of more than fifteen hundred tons of shells - and that's as great a weight of missiles as is dropped by hundreds of bombers in a major air raid. Smoke and dust enveloped the entire coastline across from Sicily.

The opposition was negligible. One enemy battery fired a few badly aimed shells until it was knocked out, and another shot at the warships as they steamed away - the futile shells missing by thousands of yards.

Meanwhile, allied bombers were ranging far and wide over Italy - one raid reaching clear across the peninsula and hitting a target on the Italian Adriatic coast. Another formation of bombers blasted the city of Pisa - famous for the Leaning Tower.

luckily,

The targets were six miles away from that celebrated and peculiar edifice, and no explosions came near it. So tonight the Leaning Tower of Pisa is still leaning.

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MARCUS ISLAND

~~Today~~ *But* in the Pacific, the dawn came up like thunder -
this morning. In fact
over Marcus Island, *it* was a thunder of big guns and exploding
air bombs. A navy task force struck a smashing blow at that
Japanese base, which is a thousand miles off the coast of Japan -
and only four hours of flying time from Tokyo.

The first ~~xxx~~ news from the enemy side, a Japanese
dispatch announcing the assault and indicating its magnitude.
The Japs told of a powerful naval force and "many [^]places". They
stated that waves of planes flew over - and blasted Marcus Island.

From our side there is not much - the Navy merely
reporting that a task force was scheduled to assault Marcus
Island at dawn on September First, and presumably the plan was
carried out. Nothing further can be known until the task
force flashes a message - which it won't do until it has abandoned
its radio silence. Warships on a job like that do not use radio
while they are in the danger zone, for wireless messages would
give information and guidance to the enemy. So we will have to
wait until the task force drops its radio silence. After which
we will get an account of the bombardment at dawn today.

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The Navy speaks of the attack as a raid, which would indicate a hit-and-run affair - with no attempt to seize the island. In other words, the same sort of operation that Admiral Halsey carried out early in our war with Japan when a task force struck at both Marcus and Wake Islands.

The feeling in Navy circles in Washington is, however, that the raid may well be a forerunner of larger events. One assumption is that the purpose of the assault was to try to ~~lure~~ lure the Japanese fleet out for a decisive battle. Or, today's attack on Marcus Island may be a ~~prelude~~ prelude to a naval and air thrust against Japan proper.

Wend
~~Warning~~ This latter is suggested by the Japs themselves, Tokyo Tokyo
~~Warning~~ the Japanese people that American forces might attack Japan. The Marcus Island assault might be followed by a repetition of the Doolittle raid - but ~~on~~ on a scale of major strategy. It is ~~to~~ to be noted that the previous task force assault on Marcus Island was followed shortly afterward by the Doolittle bombing of Tokyo.

The Jap supposition that they may be bombed was echoed in Australia today by American under-Secretary of War Patterson. In a newspaper interview he stated: "You won't have to wait long for the bombing of Japan".

Tempers certainly are running short in Washington - there is scarcely a day that does not bring some new vitriolic outburst. Today's example of blazing vocabulary occurs in an outbreak of noisy trouble between Oil Administrator Ickes and Lieutenant-Governor John Lee Smith of Texas.

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The argument started when the statesman of the southwest denounced the reduction of gasoline rations in his section of the country. The reduction was accompanied by an increase of gasoline for the Eastern states. The Lieutenant-Governor of Texas stated that this was what he called, "a cheap political maneuver to appease certain of the politically powerful states on the eastern seaboard".

Ickes, the curmudgeon, was never one to leave hard words unanswered, and he comes back with vigor. His reply is in terms of clothes and underclothes. He states that the Texasⁿ is, "draped in the outer garments of patriotism and the underwear of self-interest".

From those sartorial remarks the Administrator goes on to "crocodiles". To the Lieutenant-Governor he states:- "Our tanks, and trucks and ~~kank~~ jeeps cannot burn as fuel the crocodile

tears that you shed". True enough, Mr. Administrator, every motorist knows that it's no good to fill up the old tank with crocodile tears. *Instead everyone should use Blue Sunoco!*

The latest is a new blast from Texas, with the Lieutenant Governor writing to the Administrator in these opprobrious words: "Our planes, tanks and ~~km~~ jeeps cannot run on the type of gas which you ~~ge~~ frequently generate".
- meaning Jeebs -

The generation of gas is most important, of course, but not that kind of gas.

PHONE CALL

And now, any citizen of Wyoming who may be listening in had better shut his ears.

A lady of Pittsburgh telephoned the police headquarters at Denver, Colorado, and said to the cops on the wire: "I wonder if you would deliver a message to a friend of mine in Cheyenne, Wyoming?"

"But lady", expostulated the Denver policeman "Cheyenne is a hundred miles away".

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"A hundred miles?" the Pittsburgh lady ~~xxx~~ exclaimed, "Well, we know how you ranchers in the west travel a lot and like to help out neighbors."

"Look lady," protested the policeman, "Why don't you call Cheyenne?"

"Oh", she gasped, "I was under the impression that there were no telephones in Wyoming."

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And now I'm under the impression that Hugh has something weighing on his mind.