

L.I. - Sunco. Friday, July 26, 1940.

The French Fleet is in the news again, this time in the guise of the British ~~Fleet~~ Fleet. That is - French warships seized by the ~~British~~ British are now operating with British units against the Germans.

It's not so long ago that headlines told how the British took drastic measures to make sure that the French fleet would not fall into German hands. British naval units bombarded and blasted French warships at Oran in North Africa. In British ports and at ~~Alexandria~~ Alexandria, the British were able to seize French naval units. And today London reports that one former French Man-o-war is already at sea, taking part in naval operations. And others are ready to play their part in the fight against Nazi Germany. Some are manned by French crews, Frenchmen ~~and~~ who elected to continue the battle after their country had surrendered. Others are manned by British sailors and officers.

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The war is taking something of a new turn - with German torpedo speed boats collaborating with dive bombers in attacks on British shipping. Speed boat and war plane tactics in the Nazi attempt to blockade that all-important island of Britain.

Today London gives an account of a pitched battle in the new style, ^{just fought;} ~~it happened yesterday~~ when a British convoy of twenty-one ships was moving through the English channel. In the distance appeared nine torpedo speed boats. They came charging to the attack. The British communique reads:- "Two of our destroyers and two of our motor ~~t~~ropedo boats at once proceeded to intercept and engage the enemy forces." There was an exchange of British and German fire. "The enemy motor boats," says the London account, "retired behind a smokescreen. They were chased and engaged for about fifteen minutes. The ~~d~~amage inflicted on the enemy was not observed, due to the smoke," adds the British communique.

Then the British destroyers were attacked by Stuka Dive Bombers. They came whistling out of the sky,

plunging downward and releasing their bombs. The two British destroyers were hit by bombs, damaged, states ~~and~~ the London dispatch.

The story goes on with a thrill, and melodrama.

With heavy anti-aircraft ^{fire} directed at the dive bombers, a shell scored a direct hit on a Nazi warplane. It is thought, says the British account, "that this shell must have hit the

German bomb racks since the aircraft ^{simply vanished into} ~~blew to pieces in~~

bits, in
mid-air."

The dive bombers continued to attack the convoy.

Five merchant ships were sunk and five damaged, says London - adding that ~~they~~ they were small vessels. The German claim is that eleven ships in the convoy were sunk in the battle for a total loss of forty-five thousand tons.

The contradiction continues with the British claim that twenty-eight German planes were ~~fix~~ lost yesterday. The Germans retort that their loss was only ~~nine~~ nine planes, and they claim that they shot down twenty-three British skycraft.

The latest is, a Berlin statement ^{just in that} ~~that today~~ Nazi
torpedo speed boats ^{have} attacked another convoy, ^{sinking} ~~sank~~ three
merchant ships and ^{setting} ~~set~~ another on fire.

ADD WAR

Late this evening London ^{also} reports that the German attack has shifted to the North - rather far to the North.

Today squadrons of German bombers ^{also} made attacks on convoys of British shipping off the coast of North Ireland. There was

heavy battling of sky and ocean; It's a long flight ^{for}

~~by the~~ Nazi bombers from air bases in France to North Irish

waters. Obviously, the Germans are trying to swing their

blockade by air attack all the way up the western coast of

Britain.

CHILDREN

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American ships to fetch British children - the foreign affairs committee of the House of Representatives today acted on that idea. The Committee unanimously approved a proposed bill that would permit American ships to go to British ports and bring to this country thousands of the youthful refugees. The bill is broad enough to cover children of other nations in the war zones, but is meant to apply to Great Britain. Vessels flying the American flag would go unarmed and by themselves - not in convoy. However, assurances would be procured from all the governments ~~ix~~ in the war - assurances that the ships of children would not be molested. This of course means specifically - a guarantee against attack by German or Italian submarines or warplanes.

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President Roosevelt indicated that such assurances ~~ix~~ may be requested. He pointed out today that the United States would be assuming a frightful ~~ref~~ responsibility in attempting to remove children aboard American ships, unless there were ~~guarantees~~ guarantees that the vessels would not be

be torpedoed or bombed. Even so, evacuation might be hazardous, said the President. And he called attention to the sinking of the French transport ~~xxx~~ carrying French ~~x~~ officers and sailors from Great Britain back to France.

The British claim that the Germans gave assurances that ^{the} ship would not be ~~xxxxxx~~ attacked. The Germans now admit the sinking, but deny that any assurances were requested or given.

Here's a late announcement made by the Petain French government. It blames the sinking of the French transport on the British. It has nothing to say about whether or not the Germans were informed and gave or did not give assurances. It claims that the French were not informed.

PLANES

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Here are some precise facts about the official British notion that the United States can provide them with three thousand war planes a month. This figure was stated in the London House of Commons, and has been talked about optimistically over here. Today, it was analyzed by defense production coordinator William S. Knudsen.

His figures show that if the British want to get three thousand planes a month from the United States, they'll have to build thirty-eight new aviation factories over here. The existing plants are not nearly enough. And then, even if they were to build thirty-eight new factories in America, the British would not be able to get their three thousand planes a month until about the middle of Nineteen Forty-two.

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Right now, said ~~xxx~~ Coordinator Knudsen, the ~~xxx~~ plane production in the United States is about nine hundred a month. And of course the United States ~~ixxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxx~~ must get some of these. Under our own defense program, we are placing airplane orders. For example, in August, our Government will get three hundred and ninety-six military planes. The British will get two hundred and

thirty-six.

The Coordinator stated that it takes from six to eleven months to put up an aircraft factory and equip it properly. He thought that if the British were prompt in building thirty eight new factories over here, they might get a few planes by the end of next year, Nineteen Forty-one. But they couldn't arrive at the three thousand a month level until the middle of Nineteen Forty-two.

CONFERENCE

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A report from Havana is that the sub-committee considering the question of European colonies in the Western Hemisphere has reached a compromising agreement. We're not told what the compromise is, but in some way or another it's supposed to harmonize conflicting ideas of the United States and Argentina. Secretary of State Hull has proposed ^a~~the~~ kind of Pan American trusteeship over the American possession of France, Holland and Great Britain. Argentina has been opposed to this -- saying that the wishes of the inhabitants of those colonies should be consulted. The argument between the United States and Argentina has been a stiff one but ~~now~~ now a compromise is reported.

Japan is reported to be taking a grave view of yesterday's action by the United States Government in the matter of oil and scrap iron. These materials are greatly needed by Japan, and now they are placed under the system of licenses - which looks like a move toward an embargo.

In Tokyo it was reported today that the Japanese government has asked the United States to think it over. There's unofficial speculation in the Far East about the possible Japanese retaliation.

It is definite now that Secretary of Agriculture Wallace will either resign his Cabinet post when he starts campaigning for the vice-Presidency or ~~he will~~ take a leave of absence.

The matter was discussed today by President Roosevelt who recited an interesting bit of history - history in which he himself figured. It is to be recalled that back in Nineteen Twenty, he himself was the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, when he was ~~is~~ nominated as Democratic candidate for Vice-President.

Today he told how when the convention gave him the nomination, he went to President Woodrow Wilson and asked:-
"When do you want my resignation as assistant secretary of the ~~Navy~~ Navy?"

President Wilson's ^{said he} ~~reply indicated~~ indicated that he had made a study of the historical precedents, ~~covering the case.~~
~~What was the propriety of a high official in the Government retaining his post while campaigning for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency? President Woodrow Wilson had looked that up carefully, taking note of what had been done in the past.~~ *and,*

And This was the historical background for the reply he gave to the young Secretary of the Navy, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

He said that the precedents on the average indicated that the right thing to do was to resign --- but not until the candidate had actually started his campaign. Franklin D. Roosevelt took the advice and acted accordingly.

25 Today the President related that story with reference to the case of Secretary of ~~Agriculture~~ Agriculture, Vice-

Presidential ~~XXXX~~ candidate, Henry Wallace. Soon afterward it was followed by a formal statement from Wallace, ^{which} ~~this~~ does not exactly follow the indication that the President gave - about resigning. Wallace declares that as soon as he has been officially notified of his nomination, he will either resign or take a leave of absence without pay.

CULT

At Los Angeles, the police have arrested the reincarnation of Joan of Arc, the reincarnation of LaFayette, and various other ~~reims~~ reincarnations of great shades of the past. They are member^s of an exceedingly mystic cult. As for being reincarnations - they say they are.

In fact the name of their cult is - "I am". The police say that the mystic brotherhood of "I am" put across a three million dollar swindle, which is not so mystic. *And,*
You might say - not so dusty.

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One allegation is that an "I am" artist painted a picture of the divinity and declared that the creator of the universe had posed for it - in person. The creator accompanied by two other personalities. One - St. Germaine. The other - a ~~pixm~~ planetary individual called "the Tall Master From Venus". Reproductions of this astral portrait were sold through the mails at two dollars per copy.

This^s _^ame cult of "I Am" is simultaneously in the courts at Chicago. In legal proceedings there it was

related today that a secret operative of "I am" went to work on two German submarines off the Panama Canal. What did the patriotic secret operative do to the U-Boats? He dissolved them - the way you dissolve a lump of sugar in a cup of coffee. It certainly must have surprised the Nazi submarine sailors. To be suddenly dissolved. And am I surprised?

I am !

SWINDLE

Lupe Velez, the Mexican hot tomale of Hollywood, is commonly described as tempestuous. And she sure was tempestuous today. Some months ago Lupe was swindled, just plain gypped. On the screen we see her as a subtle siren. In other words - a wise dame. But last December Lupe fell for one of the crudest of con game tricks. It's an old fortune teller stunt. Many people know how it works. Lupe does; - now.

A gypsy fortune teller got Lupe into her magical toils, and read her palm, foretold her future, and convinced Lupe that she possessed the darkest secrets of gypsy sorcery. They the fortune teller told the wise and sophisticated screen star about the most wonderful witchcraft of all. She's bring^{ing} Lupe all the good luck in the world by performing a cabalistic ceremony over a wad of Lupe's money. That was the most powerful kind of necromancy of all - blessing the bankroll. The bigger the bankroll, the better. Lupe believed it, and drew out twenty-five hundred dollars. This

it says again. thinks about it.

fistful of money she brought to the gypsy for the mystic ritual. The fortune teller went ahead with complicated incantations of Mumbo Jumbo - the blessing of the bankroll. And somewhere in the process of that occult ceremony, the bankroll disappeared.

After performing that ancient swindle, the gypsy herself ~~XXXXXXXX~~ disappeared. So Lupe was out twenty-five hundred dollars. And was Lupe ~~xxxx~~ mad! She virtually did a loop-de-loop. She put in a complaint to the police, and since then has just been waiting for the fortune teller to be caught. Now at length ~~xxx~~ come the exciting tidings. The gypsy is under arrest at Evanston, Indiana. And today Lupe signed the extradition papers to bring her back to Hollywood. When the fortune teller gets there, oh boy! Lupe, the Mexican hot tomale, expresses it this tempestuous way:-

Caracaba!

"I'm going to ~~xxx~~ ^{xxx} her up," she shouted today.

"Number One - I punch her in the nose. Number two - I kick her in the ~~xx~~ teeth. Number three - I pull her hair." Well, I'm afraid that fortune teller is going to need all the black art of her gypsy tribe to save her nose, her teeth and her hair, as a result of all that Mumbo

Jumbo the gypsy fortune teller used Loti ask Milton Cross what he

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