

Old News

Victor Elgersma

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Descartes Colloquium

16 June, 2026

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Featured

FEATURED ARTICLE

The Attempt on the Queen's Life

The Examiner — 8/06/1840

The Examiner condemns the attempted assassination of Queen Victoria, portraying it as an act driven by notoriety and warning against partisan rhetoric that may have encouraged hostility toward the crown. It also refers to the attacker, Edward Oxford, whose remark that a woman should not rule is cited in the political debate surrounding the incident.

[Read article →](#)

...dated his ... The speech of
Oxford, that he thought a woman should not reign over such an empire as
this, is but a mild repetition of an argument laboured in the *Quarterly Review*
last summer. ... forcibly ...

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The Examiner reports on the shocking assassination attempt against the young Queen Victoria, blaming the attacker's "passion for notoriety" and rebuking partisan Tory rhetoric for fueling the danger.

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| <i>Historic Journalism, Restored</i> | | |
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| Archive contains 13 digitized articles. | | |
| <hr/> <small>THE WATERFORD CHRONICLE 20/05/1846</small> | <u>Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation - Awowed Infidelity</u> | This 1846 review sharply denounces the bestselling book "Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation," accusing its anonymous author of scientific incompetence and dangerous, unchristian deism. The reviewer particularly attacks the author's theory that human morality is not a spiritual matter, but rather a mechanical, natural phenomenon governed by physical and electrical laws. |
| <hr/> <small>THE ATLAS 20/12/1845</small> | <u>Explanations: a Sequel to ""Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation""</u> | This is a review of "Explanations", a follow-up book by the anonymous author of "Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation", in which the author defends his theory of organic development and natural law against scientific critics. The reviewer examines key contested points – the nebular hypothesis, geological evidence for progressive species development, and spontaneous generation experiments – while remaining skeptical but acknowledging the theory's thought-provoking merits. |
| <hr/> <small>LIVERPOOL MERCURY 3/10/1845</small> | <u>Mercury.Extraordinary!</u> | In this October 1845 announcement, the Liverpool Mercury celebrates its growing circulation and temporary page expansion—undertaken to |

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LIVERPOOL MERCURY
31/10/1845

Mercury Extraordinary!

In this October 1845 announcement, the Liverpool Mercury celebrates its growing circulation and temporary page expansion—undertaken to

THE EXAMINER
14/06/1840

The Bane and the Antidote

This article fiercely contrasts the Whig government's Irish Registration Bill with a rival Tory bill proposed by Lord Stanley, branding the latter as a hypocritical attempt to systematically disfranchise Irish voters through relentless annual litigation. While the Whig plan offers a temperate, eight-year revision process to protect honest electors, the author warns that the Tory scheme uses the guise of reform to strip away popular franchises and dismantle the core of the Reform Act.

THE EXAMINER
14/06/1840

The Preparations for War in China



This 1840 article details British confidence ahead of the First Opium War, mocking China's "infatuation" with using converted merchant ships against the superior British Navy. It specifically ridicules a Chinese official's absurd defense proposals, which include cutting off fresh water supplies and using teams of military divers to sneak aboard British warships at night to massacre the crew.

THE EXAMINER
8/03/1840

Election News

This election roundup details the shifting candidate fields and strategic maneuvers between Tory and Liberal factions across several British boroughs. It highlights a concerted push by Radical Reformers to mobilize independent voters, contest Conservative strongholds, and maintain momentum for the Whig ministry.

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The Preparations for War in China

The Chinese seem inclined to be very accommodating enemies. Their presumption is one of our best allies. The apprehension was that they would avoid battle, and that our expedition would be unable to make any impression, having no point of resistance on which to operate in so extensive a country. But, instead of this policy, the Chinese have the infatuation of thinking to oppose our expedition

Tsang Wangyen, in his memorial to the Grand Military Council, confesses his conviction that to compete with us at sea is beyond the strength of the Celestial Empire, as our ships are large and strong, and we handle our great guns both quick and well, and are accustomed to the ocean; but, though sensible so far in his view of the comparison of forces, he proposes a plan of operations by land and water which is fully equal in absurdity to that which we have alluded to.

“I find that in the different little islets adjoining our coasts, there are places where fresh water may be procured; we ought, therefore, to despatch officers and soldiers to such parts, that being so guarded, foreigners may no longer be able to land and draw water. Further, the common people who inhabit the villages by the sea-side ought all to be drilled and formed into a sort of militia, in order that they may be able to defend their different parts of the country; and should any foreigners attempt to land, let the people sally forth to beat them back; and if any one (of ours) is discovered to hold clandestine communication with the enemy, let his crime straightway be punished with the utmost rigour. Not only in the single province of Kwangtong ought such measures to be taken, but the same precautions should be secretly enforced in all those provinces which border on the sea. The supplies being thus cut off entirely from the foreigners, and they, finding it impossible to obtain wood or water any longer, will most undoubtedly repent of their crimes, and, drooping their heads, submissively await our sentence. But supposing that these foreigners do not yet submit, that they still keep looking about them,

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The Chinese, notwithstanding their ignorance, have discerned and acknowledged the superiority of

the foundations of the empire were archery and horsemanship?

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Contributions and text corrections are highly encouraged. You can help by finding typos and by [contributing new articles](#). If you spot another kind of mistake feel free to e-mail v.j.b.elgersma@students.uu.nl.

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TUESDAY's POST,

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

Yesterday arriv'd a Mail from France.

Hamburgh, (in Germany) Feb 10: *They write from Bohemia, that the Cold was so excessive there the 31st ult. and the 1st instant, as to be only two Degrees inferior to that in 1739 and 40: Upwards of forty Persons were frozen to Death by it*

Paris, (in France) Feb 9 *The Guards have been doubled on the Vagabonds, &c. in the Bicêtre and Hospital of St. Lewis; but a Distemper has unhappily broke out in the latter Place, which carries off upwards of thirty of these poor Wretches every Day*

Paris A la-main, Feb 17,

It is generally reported, that the Cavalry of France will for the future be all cloathed in Blue. There is likewise a Talk of a Diminution of six Millions in the Taxes

According to the List which we already have of the Marine, there is actually in the Ports of Brest, Rochelle, Rochefort, Toulon, Marseille, &c. sixty Men of War, and twenty others, it is said, are speedily to be dismasted.

It is almost certain that a War will break out in Italy; and in that Case France will furnish the King of the Two Sicilies with 40000 Auxiliary Troops, and it is affirmed, that the King of Sardinia will grant them a Passage through his Territories. A Militia is raising in all the Provinces.

It is affirmed that the Count de Neully is appointed to command the wing which is assembling in Dauphiny, and that Count de St. Frees will command the Troops that are to pass into Italy. *(uncertain readings in names due to damage in source)*

An Insurance Company is forming here which will be supported by the Ministry.

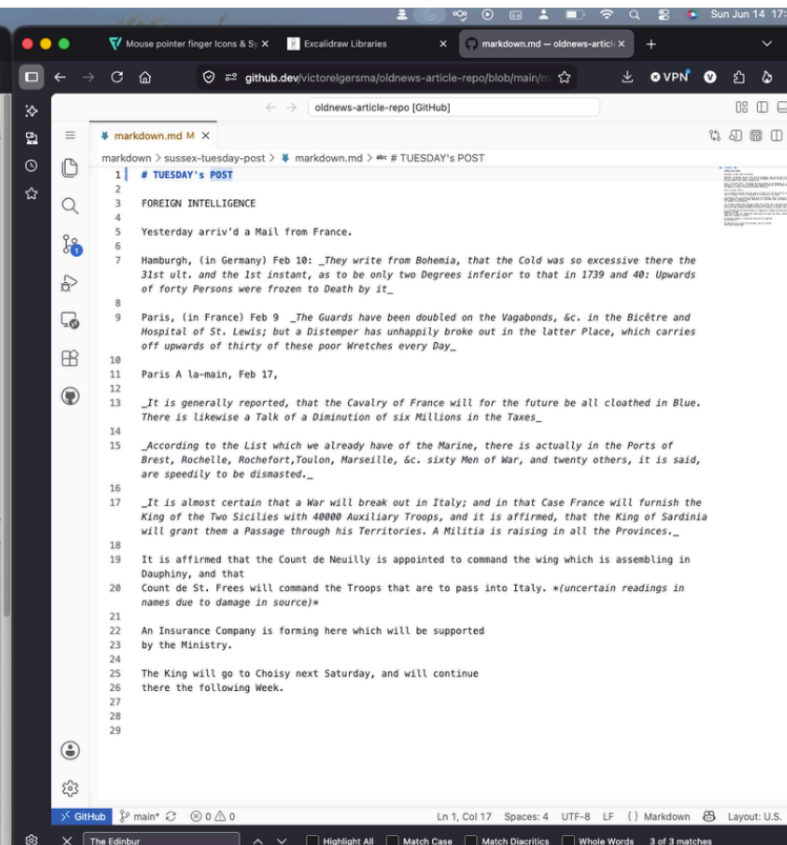
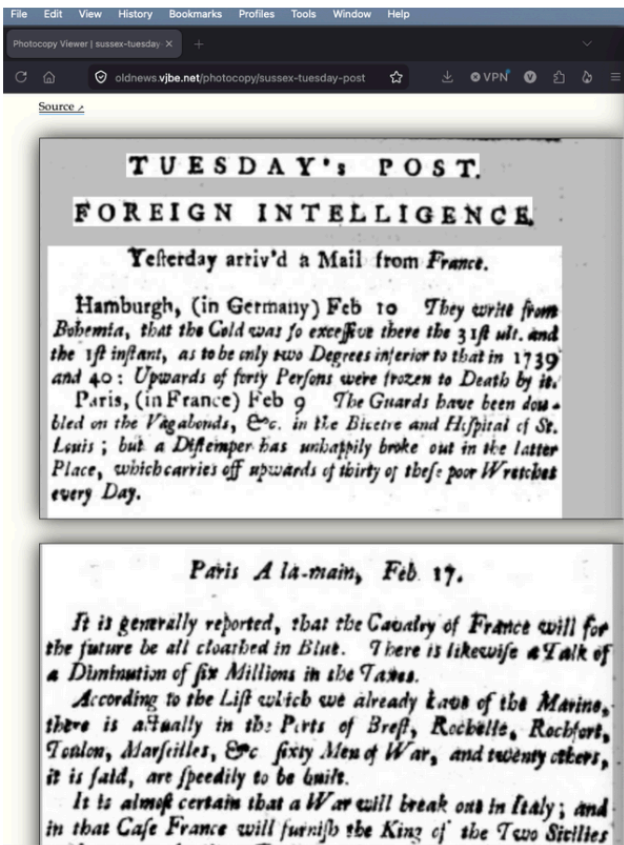
The King will go to Choisy next Saturday, and will continue there the following Week.

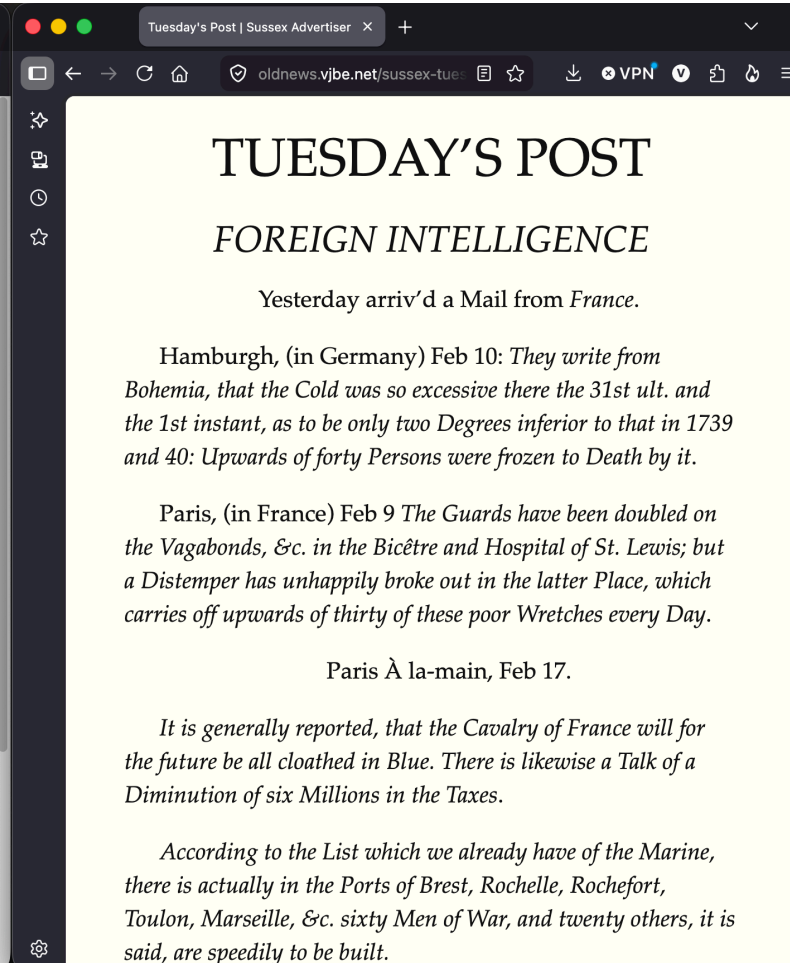
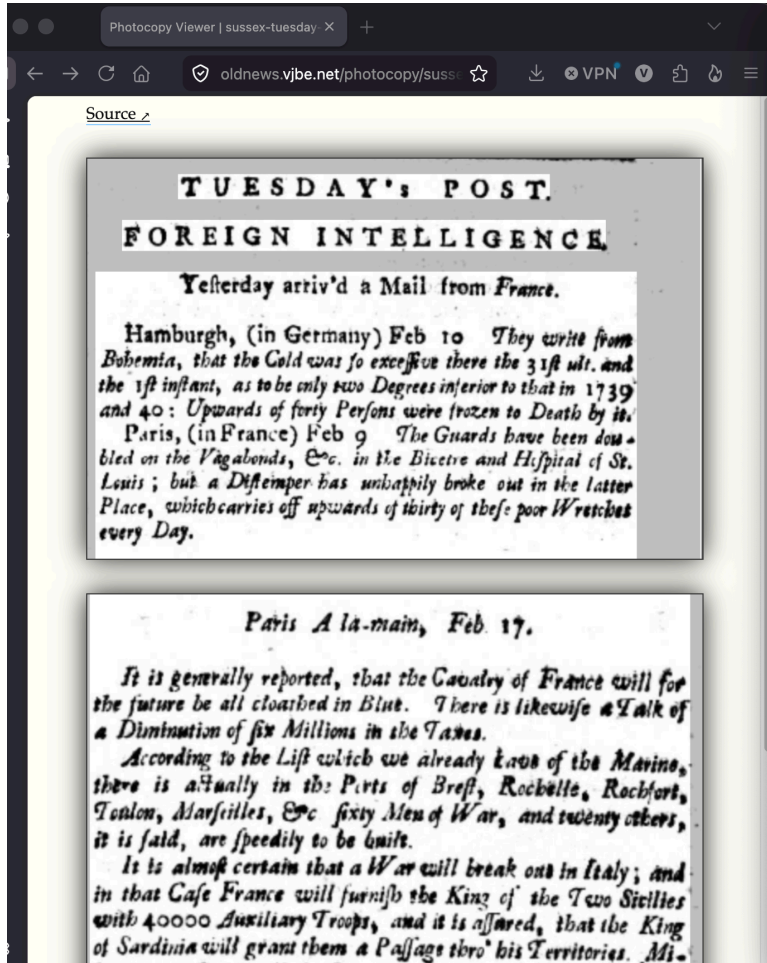




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3 | FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE
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Backstory







Location: American Legation Museum, Tangier



“I had no idea where these soldiers came from. I was just a kid. All I knew was they wanted to save us from the Nazis and they brought us chocolate and bubble gum.”

--Albert Bouhadana, who was a 17-year-old resident of Casablanca at the time of the invasion
(from interview in 1992)

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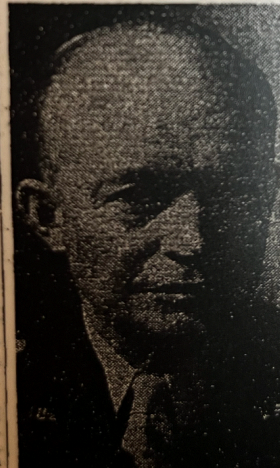
The Associated Press

Egypt, Nov. 7.—Approx-
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The Washington Post

Powerful U. S. Army Invades French Africa for Second Front

British Seize, Trap 100,000 Axis Troops in Desert

Eisenhower Asks French To Aid U. S.

Lands From Atlantic, Mediterranean to Block Axis Move Against America



Dwight D. Eisenhower



Second-Front Theater of War

A "powerful" American Expeditionary Force has landed in French West Africa, the United States announced today. The force, with some British allies, was sent to the Mediterranean coast of the African continent, where it will join the British and French forces in the Second Front theater of war.

The announcement, signaling the start of the new campaign, came shortly after the White House said the expedition is launching an axis invasion, with the force expected to be "available in October in the West."

British naval and air forces, it was said, have been committed to a "major effort."

The expedition, announced by General L. H. H. Howland, is the first of its kind since the White House announced the start of the new campaign.

Roosevelt's Message

Vive La France

World Freedom, President

The Home Front in Great Britain

Food Rationing Presents New Picture of Old England

(Mrs. Eugene Meyer made the most of an opportunity to spend a month in Great Britain and to see this brave people, overcoming every problem, carry on in the grim business of beating the enemy—20 miles away. This is the second of six articles by Mrs. Meyer.)

By Agnes E. Meyer

The story of food rationing is the story of a new Great Britain that we Americans do not yet know, a modern nation of a new kind, scientific yet humane, authoritarian, yet following rather than dictating the people's needs.

Eat in any British Restaurant, as the communal feeding stations are called, and you touch the life of the whole nation. I was invited the day after it opened, to lunch at the New Museum Restaurant by the Mayor of Bethnal Green, a London slum area near the docks.

The building is a long, narrow barn made homelike by partitions that jut out from the wall, giving



MRS. MEYER

semiprivacy and intimacy to two tables, each seating 10 people. It serves 100 people every five minutes, and its capacity at one sitting is 2500.

The large wall spaces were broken by colorful posters. All of these thousands of communal restaurants scattered throughout the big cities or the remote valleys of Wales, strive for the home feeling. In London they often have exhibits of modern paintings. One manager told me proudly his next showing would be the works of Augustus John.

The first group of tables near the door was filled by youngsters, boys and girls, none over 8. I sat down with them and asked why they happened to be there. A tousled redhead, all of 8 years old, undertook to speak for the others: "My ma works in the factory, so we (pointing to sister, aged

See MEYER, Page 3, Col. 1

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The Washington Post

Powerful U. S. Army Invades French Africa for Second Front

British Seize, Trap 100,000 Axis Troops in Desert

Eisenhower Asks French To Aid U. S.

Lands From Atlantic, Mediterranean to Block Axis Move Against America



Second-Front Theater of War

A "powerful" American Expeditionary Force has landed in French West Africa, the United States announced today. The force, with some British allies, was sent to the continent to help the Allies in their drive against the Axis powers in the Mediterranean theater of war.

The announcement, signaling the start of a new phase in the war, came shortly after the White House said the expedition is launching an "airborne" attack on the continent, with the objective of "providing an effective second front against the Axis."

The expedition, announced by Dwight D. Eisenhower, commander in chief of the United States Army, is the largest force ever sent to the continent of Africa. It is expected to be the first of a series of operations that will be carried out in the coming months.

The force is being sent to French West Africa, which includes the countries of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, and Senegal. The force is expected to be the first of a series of operations that will be carried out in the coming months.

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Roosevelt's Message

Vive La France

World Freedom, President



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