

B.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, March 25, 1941.

BALKANS

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The decks are clear for action in the Balkans. With Jugoslavia in the Axis camp, all is ready for the blitzkrieg legions of Hitler to march against Greece. ^{And there} They'll have a fight on their hands. That has been made evident by developments during recent days, and it became official today. In London, the British Under-Secretary of State for the War Office told the House of Lords that a powerful British army stands ready, Britain making a major effort to support the armies of Greece. The Under-Secretary made the declaration in these words:- "Soldiers of the British Empire now stand braced, hardened, experienced and trained - to meet the military might of Germany. We are not afraid of the issue," he added.

This reference to the army the British have in Greece is significant, those same military forces which inflicted such severe defeats on the Italians. ^{For example} More Fascist set-backs in East Africa were reported today, and the whole thing is dramatized by the resignation of Marshal Graziani, Commander of the Italian armies in Libya. Graziani was justly regarded as Italy's Number One colonial soldier, and now he steps out. This is regarded as a sign that the virtual command of the Italians in Libya has been turned over

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to the Germans. London reports that large forces of Nazi troops
are ^{now} operating ^{in Africa,} ~~there~~ and Berlin claims the capture of a ^{Libyan} stronghold
~~held by~~ the British. It remains to be seen how far the Germans and
Italians in Libya can affect the military clash that's about to
occur in the Balkans.

The ceremony of the Yugoslav signing today was in a sense
a compromise. Of course, it puts the Balkan kingdom in the Nazi
camp, but the Yugoslavs did not yield all the way - as did the
Rumanians and the Bulgarians. The terms of the pact agree with
information we have had right along. Jugoslavia permits the passage
of German war supplies and wounded soldiers through its territory.
The war supply part of it is particularly important, enabling the
Germans to get their munitions through - without congesting the
narrow mountainous roads of Bulgaria. But the Yugoslavs do not
agree to let German troops pass through their country - that's the
compromise part of it. ~~Rumania and Bulgaria admitted the Nazi army -~~
~~in huge force. But Jugoslavia - no, though it remains to be seen~~
~~how perfectly the Germans will keep any such agreement. However,~~
By the terms of today's treaty, they are not permitted to drive

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against the Greeks through the Yugoslav valley, ^{though} that would be their easiest line of attack. (They'll have to make their assault on the massed armies of Greece and Britain via the more difficult mountain passes of Bulgaria.)

There ^{is plenty of} ~~is some~~ question of how the people of Jugoslavia will take their entrance into the Nazi camp. Abundant reports tell us that there ^{is} grave popular discontent. Another Jugoslav Cabinet Minister resigned today - in protest. And there might be a flare-up of violence against the move that the government of the Regent Prince Paul has felt compelled to make.

Berlin did a familiar bit of Nazi gloating over the yielding of Jugoslavia. A Hitler spokesman declared the treaty was made in spite of heavy pressure applied by the Western democracies - and that includes the United States. ^{Berlin} ~~The spokesman~~ spoke of the pressure in these words:- "applied directly and indirectly by President Roosevelt." ^{It's} ~~He~~ added that the greatest efforts were made on Sunday to dissuade the Jugoslavs from their purpose - but the efforts were useless.

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Today in Washington Acting Secretary of State

Sumner Welles was questioned about American pressure. He didn't say directly that there had been any such thing, but pointed out that President Roosevelt has always taken a position that the integrity of small nations should be observed. ^RThe Acting Secretary did express himself concerning the Soviet promise to Turkey, the Stalin Government assuring the Turks that if they should get into war with Nazi Germany they would not be attacked by the Red Army. An agreement of what is called "comprehension and neutrality." Sumner Welles said that the United States views this with gratification. ~~More gratification obviously than in the case,~~ of the Yugoslav affair. Today the credits of that kingdom were tied up in the United States. In Washington an order was issued whereby Yugoslav credits in this country were declared frozen - can't be used. These ~~credits~~ amount to about a million dollars.

SEVEN BILLION

Right now a plane is flying south to Florida. Aboard is a post office inspector, and he has in his custody a document -- a seven billion dollar document.

Today the congressional bill appropriating seven billion for Lend-Lease was signed by Vice-President Wallace in the Senate and Speaker Sam Rayburn in the House. That made the big money message ready for the signature of President Roosevelt. The Chief Executive is out at sea, aboard the yacht Potomac, off the coast of Florida.

So the bill for billions was sent on its way by air; -- ~~to go~~ by passenger line to Miami; Thence by coast guard plane to the presidential yacht at sea. There the signature "Franklin D. Roosevelt" will put it ~~up in~~ ^{into} operation -- financing the new All Out Aid to Britain.

LABOR BOARD

The new Defense Mediation Board went ^{to work} ~~into operation~~
today. Its Chairman, Clarence Dykstra, made the announcement
in these words - "open for business." He made an appeal to both
industry and labor, reminding them that if the United States is
to be an arsenal for democracy, there must be production and
plenty of it. "No effort toward such an objective can be too
great," he said.

The new Mediation Board, ^{on} opening its doors, has its
work cut out, [!] plenty of work, [!] plenty of strikes. [!]

BETHLEHEM STRIKE

The walkout

~~The strike~~ at the Bethlehem Steel plant took a serious enough turn today for the sheriff to appeal to the Governor of Pennsylvania. He wired to Governor James as follows:- "I will be unable to control the situation with the men at my disposal, and must ask assistance from the Commonwealth."

~~The Bethlehem Steel Corporation~~ is a most important unit in national defense industry - with tens of millions of dollars' worth of defense orders.

The trouble at Bethlehem was caused by what is called "an employees' representation plan." The strikers claim it's a Company union, and declare that it has been characterized as such by the National Labor Board. Yesterday, under the employees' representation plan, ~~balloting~~ balloting began to ~~determine~~ determine who should represent the workers in dealing with the Company. Whereupon the Steel Workers Organizing Committee called a strike and established a picket line. This morning violence promptly broke out, when workers tried to enter the plant and the picket line stopped them. There was a scuffle, and the police used tear gas bombs.

The Union claimed^S that about sixty per cent of the workers ~~had~~^{have} joined the strike, and the picket line was reinforced, the situation looked threatening, and in the afternoon the Bethlehem sheriff wired to the Pennsylvania Governor - asking for help. Governor James immediately sent a ~~small~~ couple of officials to Bethlehem to look into the situation.

The strike threatens to spread to other Bethlehem plants. The one at Johnstown, Pennsylvania, employs fifteen thousand workers, and ~~there~~^{are} they ~~are~~^{are} planning to hold an election under the Employees Representation Plan. There too the C.I.O. says it's a Company union, and ~~say~~^{declare} they'll cause what they call - a work stoppage.

Here's the latest: -
first steps have just been
taken for negotiation to settle
the strike.

HARVESTER STRIKE

Ominous word was spoken today in the strike at the Chicago plant of ~~the~~ International Harvester, ~~Company~~. The C.I.O. official in command of the walkout declared that strikes will be called in all sixteen plants operated by the Harvester Company, a general tie-up. This - in retaliation ^{for} of the use of A.F. of L. workers to operate the Chicago plant. Still more - the ~~C.I.O.~~ strike leader threatened a general C.I.O. walkout in Chicago. To a mass meeting he addressed these words:- "Preparations are being made to organize an all-city C.I.O. strike in Chicago."

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The International Harvester Company has ten million dollars' worth of national defense orders, making military trucks for the army. There was a dispute over wages, and several weeks ago the C.I.O. called the workers out. The Company claims that a large majority ~~of them~~ wanted to stay on the job, and a union chartered by the A.F. of L. undertook to operate the Chicago plant. The factory was opened yesterday, with A.F. of L. workers passing through the C.I.O. picket line under heavy police protection. The same thing again today - streams of cheering A.F. of L. men marching into the plant between heavy police lines, which kept ~~the~~

pickets away. At one point there was a fight, two of the workers going into the factory were hit on the head. Ten C.I.O. men were arrested. This was followed by the ~~announcement of the strike threat,~~ a threat to call out the workers in all the other International Harvester plants. That and the ominous mention of a possible all-city C.I.O. strike in Chicago.

BROWDER

In a New York court today the clerk, using the customary formula, called out, "For surrender, for surrender -- Earl Russel Browder!" The nation's number one Communist was there, surrendering himself to the law. He was taken in custody -- to begin serving four years in prison for passport fraud.

Tonight the Red Candidate for the presidency, in the last and in several other elections, is on his way to a federal penitentiary.

DEFENSE MIGRATION

National defense is producing a new social phenomenon -- a new wave of migrating families, people on the move. This was stated today by Federal Security Administrator Paul McNutt -p- in testimony before a congressional committee. He told of the latest phase in the phenomenon of migration. Groups wandering from place to place. Why do they migrate? Why do they go wandering? The answer is twofold, - jobs and soldiers. The Security Administrator ~~asked~~ ^{stated} the following: "Today there is an added problem, because individuals and families are leaving their homes to go to new communities- either in search of work in a defense industry or to be near a man in military service."

These migrants constitute a new problem of relief. Wanderers of national defense, you might call them.

NAVY

Several months ago we heard that Gene Tunney, former heavy-weight champion of the world, had been appointed Athletic Director in the naval air training program. Ever since then Gene, with the rank of Lieutenant-Commander, has been on the job - devising and supervising athletic drill for the flying cadets at various naval air training bases. He has been so successful in this, that now there's more news -- the announcement that Lieutenant-Commander Tunney is being appointed Director of Athletic Training for the entire navy.

Gene has been telling me about the student pilots who go through the ordeal of acrobatic flying, the dizzy tactics of sky fighting. For example, dive bombing -- in which the navy specializes. Tremendous muscular strain and physical effort. The lads have got to be in shape. They need physical conditioning in a special way. And Gene came to a vividly interesting conclusion. He's in the studio here now. So why not let him tell us.

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GENE: It's simply this. I saw that physical training for military flying is pretty much the same as physical training in boxing. Conditions for dive bombing is a good deal the same as condition for the

prize ring.

L.T.: Dive bombing -- like not being in shape for taking a dive in the ring. Gene points out some striking analogies between acrobatics in the air and pugilism. Tell us, Gene, what you were saying about the blackout.

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GENE: That's a thing, Lowell, which happens in dive bombing. The pilot comes down at a terrific speed, and released the bomb. Then he pulls out of the dive suddenly, and the strain is so great that things go black for a few seconds. His eyes are affected somehow, a temporary blackout. In boxing there's a similar phenomenon. A heavy blow on the jaw will make things go black. For a second or two the boxer is in a blackout -- just as in dive bombing.

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L.T.: Your ex-opponents ought to know, Gene. But what about the belts the dive bomb pilots wear? You say they draw their belts as tight as they can?

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GENE: Yes, that's because of what happens to the abdomen when the pilot pulls out of a dive. With the sudden checking of the speed downward, his tomach tends to bulge outward. So, to hold it in place,

he has his belt drawn tight. Obviously, the stronger his abdominal muscles are, the better off he is. Those muscles need strenghtening, need exercises to develop them. That's much the same as with a boxer. He must have a powerful muscular development around the middle -- to resist body punching. So I've been putting the student pilots through a drill, based on the training that I used to take to harden me against body blows in the ring.

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L.T.: In other words, Gene, you've been applying what you learned in boxing to the training problems of the flying cadets in the navy.

SHIP

In the ship disaster off the coast of North Carolina, the question immediately flashes - "What caused it?" In troubled times of war, suspicions are easily aroused, but at the latest report no surmise is made -- no suggested explanation of why the big oil tanker blew up. The survivors say they can't make any guess.

The first assistant engineer speaks in these words:-

"We have no idea what caused it," he says, "I was asleep," he relates, "when a terrific explosion in the fore hold rocked the entire ship, and flames leaped up. There were twenty-one men quartered in the fore part of the ship," he continues, "and only two of them apparently got out."

So there's the tragic fact. Of the twenty-one men who were in the old that blew up, nineteen are missing. Undoubtedly they perished. Twenty-two of the crew escaped. Praise for rescue work is given to that organization so frequently praised -- the Coast Guard.

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Just in:- Ex King Carol and Magda Lupescu have applied for permission to live in South America in Chile.

WILLKIE

Today -- at Montreal, half a million people gave Wendell Willkie the most enthusiastic greeting any American has ever received in the old City of French Canada. Willkie drove through the streets, perched on the rear seat of an automobile, smiling, waving, responding to cheers. Time and again the crowds broke the police line, trying to shake his hand. In a speech made from the steps of the Montreal City Hall, Willkie said:- "If we in the United States have the urge to save Britain, then this province should have an even greater urge to do so."

Which leaves us with an urge to hear Hugh James.