

P. 7 - Sunoco. Tuesday, April 29, 1941.

WAR

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Tonight the war is back to the rumor stage. Whatever action there is is mostly important because of meanings that may be attached to it, interpretations.

Talk of a Nazi attempt to invade Britain increased today with events along the English Channel. The long range German guns at Calais opened a cross-Channel bombardment of the Dover area - the heaviest and longest continued rain of shells since the invasion scare of last fall - when a German landing attempt was

expected momentarily. Hour after hour the big berthas hurled shells against the English coast, <sup>today</sup> concentrating on the port of Dover. Half a dozen guns were firing at regular intervals.

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British heavy artillery replied, making the duel of cannon, a day-long thunder and booming. Did the outburst of the big berthas presage an invasion attempt? That question flashed to mind in Britain.

It was suggested further by an air battle over the English Channel, the biggest clash of sky fleets since the invasion scare of months ago. As the cross-Channel cannon exchanged their long range fire, many planes whirled in dogfights overhead. And it is not

clear just why the new outbreak of sky battle occurred -- but it provided food for rumors.

The British government has just ordered the evacuation of ten thousand children from the port of Plymouth, that British harbor which had been blasted consecutively for the past few days - the worst bombed place in England they say. Last night Plymouth once again was bombed with devastating havoc. Today a large part of the town was officially declared to be what they call an "evacuation area", and the children of most of the inhabitants of Plymouth were ordered taken away to a safer place.

Rumor weaves about Spain. London this morning reported that the Berlin radio had stated that British consuls in Spain were advising all Britons to leave the country. Later in the day, this was denied by Berlin. London had still another German report that the Franco government had arrested thirty-one British citizens on charges of what were described as -- "activities directed against the Spanish state."

And Spain has closed its frontiers. That was another rumor rife in Britain - that the Franco Government had sealed the borders

of the country this morning. All this raised an alarm -- the suspicion that Hitler was about to launch through Spain a blow at Gibraltar, a thing expected by British opinion.

In Greece -- the Nazis tell of their motorized troops reaching the southern shores of the Peloponnesus, the lower peninsula of Greece. They claim to have cut off part of the British troops that were retreating to ports of evacuation, but admit that large numbers of the Empire forces have been embarking on boats and sailing away.

The Greek radio is reported to have announced tonight that a new government has been formed at Athens -- a government in collaboration with the Nazi conquerors. It's headed by a general, and he has issued a denunciation of the Greek royal family - doesn't represent the Greek nation any longer, and called upon Greek soldiers to stop fighting. This Greek radio declaration is reported by Budapest.

In North Africa, the Axis forces have made some sort of advance -- but it doesn't appear to have been anything much. They took the town of Sollum, the capture of which had been reported days

ago. From Sollum they pressed onward -- but not far. Both the British and Axis accounts agree on that.

The whole Mediterranean situation, Greek and North African, is to come up for full debate in the British Parliament. Prime Minister Churchill made formal announcement of this when he told the Commons today that he's going to ask for a vote of confidence on the decision to send troops into Greece.

NAVAL

Neutrality patrols of the United States Navy are operating as far as two thousand miles out in the Atlantic, and this is a part of the plan to maintain a safe channel for shipments of war supplies to Britain. That statement was made today by Admiral Stark, Chief of Naval Operations of the United States Navy.

Two thousand miles is a long distance across the Atlantic Ocean, and navy patrol ships are scouting for Nazi vessels of war over a vast area. What they see they report to the British fleet, and these spare Britain a great amount of scouting -- looking for Nazi U-boats, warplanes and sea raiders.

Admiral Stark further indicated that more United States naval craft will be transferred to Britain.

The War Department today accepted Lindbergh's resignation as Colonel. This was accompanied by another White House <sup>retort</sup> ~~attack~~ in the exchange between the celebrated flier and the President.

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It began when the President took sharp exception to Lindbergh's attacks on the Administrations policy of aid-to-Britain, and compared the aviator to the copperheads of the Civil War. <sup>Then</sup> Lindbergh responded by sending in his resignation <sup>as a Reserve</sup> ~~as~~ Colonel, and writing a letter to the President about it. A letter in which he said -- "I had hoped that I might exercise my rights as an American citizen to place my viewpoint before the people of my country in time of peace -- without giving up the privilege of serving my country' as an Air Corps officer in the event of war."

Today Presidential Secretary Steve Early stated that the Lindbergh letter had not yet been received at the White House, and he attacked the flier for making the communication public before <sup>it had reached</sup> the President. ~~had got it.~~ The White House Secretary said that this was not the first time ~~that~~ Lindbergh had done such a thing.

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Seven years ago he sent a telegram to the President, and made it ~~xxxx~~ public before the President received it. That was at the time the Government cancelled the air mail contracts with private airlines. The Army took over the flying of the mails -- and there were a number of fatal accidents. Quite a controversy ensued, and Lindbergh sent a telegram of protest to the President in which he predicted that the air mail action would have a bad effect.

Then <sup>today</sup> the Presidential Secretary made a sharp remark about the Lindbergh resignation. "This leads me to wonder," <sup>said</sup> remarked Steve Early, "if he's returning his decoration to Mr. Hitler." <sup>which that</sup> This refers to a medal, the Order of the German Eagle, presented to the famous flier a couple of years ago -- by Hitler's Chief Lieutenant, Goering.

It's quite a sharp controversy between the President of the United States and the trans-atlantic aviator, who for years has been a national hero. One result is that now the Flying Colonel is a Colonel no longer -- ~~xxxx~~ <sup>except</sup> by courtesy. So let's ~~xxxx~~ look back at the story of the military rank held by Lindbergh.

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Back in Nineteen Twenty-five, two years before his flight of world renown, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Aviation Reserve. The next year, while still an unknown pilot, he was commissioned a National Guard Captain. In Nineteen Twenty-seven, after his trans-Atlantic sky voyage had made him a figure of world celebrity, Lindbergh was made a Colonel in the Air Force Reserve. He was appointed to this rank in Nineteen Thirty-two and again in Nineteen Thirty-seven.

The Presidential secretary was asked today whether ~~Lind~~ Lindbergh's leaving the Reserve Officers Corps of the Air Force would be considered a loss. His reply was that Lindbergh, in any case, would not have been called to active service.

"From what the President indicated," said Steve Early, "Lindbergh wouldn't have any duties even if he continued to hold his commission."



## TAXES

On the taxation front - we hear of congressional opinions against the sales tax. This is in accordance with the opinion of Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau, who stated that he was a hundred per cent against levies on the common needs of life, like food. "A tax on the poor man's table," said the Secretary, "goes against everything this administration has worked and stood for."

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There's a proposal, sponsored by the New York Board of Trade, that income tax exemptions be reduced. Cut the exemptions of single men from eight hundred dollars to five hundred, and ~~the~~ married men from two thousand to one thousand. And cut the exemptions for dependents from four hundred dollars to two hundred and fifty each.

Then there are proposals for balancing the budget, in spite of <sup>billions</sup> ~~the expenditures~~ for national defense and aid to Britain. Chairman Tydings of the Senate Finance Committee thinks that this could be done by estimating the average normal expenses for the government. Pay these normal expenses by taxation. But what about the abnormal expenses - like national defense and aid to Britain?

Senator Tydings says that this could be amortized, that is - distributed over a twenty year period. <sup>It</sup> Another measure proposes to put a constitutional ceiling on the national debt, adopt a constitutional amendment limiting the amount of debt which the government is permitted to pile up.

All these various financial ideas are coming up in committee hearings, with witnesses <sup>giving</sup> ~~appealing to give~~ their opinions on various angles of the new taxation. One witness today entered a vigorous objection to a proposal to double the present tax on chewing tobacco. <sup>from</sup> And ~~there~~ the debate that ensued, we discover that the traditional joy of taking a bite out of a plug has by no means disappeared from this nation. The witness who spoke to defend chewing tobacco, explained it this way: "There is a time for chewing and a time for smoking," <sup>said he,</sup> ~~he declared,~~ "You can't work in a mine and smoke. You can't push a plow behind a mule and have a cigarette in your mouth," <sup>he</sup> ~~said he,~~ and <sup>"</sup> ~~But~~ you can chew tobacco." The moral is that chewing tobacco is the working man's luxury, and doubling the tax on it would be laying a heavy burden on the toilers.

Another witness made a pathetic plea, demanding Congress be as kind to widows as it is to gambling houses. He said that various individual taxpayers, especially widows, get a worse break under the tax system than the gambling houses at Reno. He then proceeded to explain how this <sup>harrowing</sup> ~~horrible~~ condition exists. It was all a bit complicated with taxation technicalities, but the main point was simple and touching - don't treat the widows any worse than you do the gambling houses.

COAL

The United Mine Workers made the announcement today that work in the soft coal mines will be resumed on Thursday morning. This -- as a result of the agreement suggested by President Roosevelt. There has been no final settlement of the issue on which the Southern Coal Mine Operators were holding out -- the question of a wage differential, a somewhat lower wage scale in the Southern mines than in the Northern. That critical point is still to be negotiated.

A late report about anthracite:- the hard coal companies and Union have agreed to operate while negotiating. Until May Tenth.

## FIRE

Blazing news from Massachusetts. Tonight one of New England's worst forest fires is roaring and raging, sweeping through the woodlands, burning houses, driving people homeless. Earlier in the day, the news was very different. It related that the forest fire had been brought under control, after destroying a hundred square miles of trees and some seventy-five cottages. The blaze was almost out apparently, but then suddenly it flamed up again, and went sweeping on - an inferno on the march. And at last reports, ~~it was~~ out of control **once** again.

## ODDITIES

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You can always depend upon the inventors for something funny. That's proved once again in Cleveland, where the annual convention of the Inventors of America went into session today. Their latest inspirations are on display, all the way from infra-red and ultra-violet rays for use in laundering clothes to a new-fangled tombstone with a ~~phot~~ phonograph that reproduces the voice of the late-lamented.

One invention is the ~~doings~~ of the radio star, Fibber McGee. Nice name, Fibber -- and it would be all the funnier if his job on the radio were the broadcasting of the news. However, his invention has to do with motoring -- something to be used in all-metal cars. It's a block of wood to be fastened to ~~fashioned to~~ the metal steering gear, so the motorist can knock wood after narrowly escaping an accident.

That's a humorous whimsy, of course, but some of the dead-serious inventions sound just as funny. A knee-action toothbrush, for example. And then there's a mask of eternal youth. You can have it grafted on the front of your head in place of your regular face, and thereby you will look forever young.

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The theme of ingenious inventions takes us to a swindling story up in Canada -- Montreal. The victims of the gyp game were four Parish Priests, French-Canadian padres. They were in court today telling how a couple of slickers persuaded them to invest their money in a new invention. What kind of contraption was it? Well, it was something that ~~was~~ stirred the deep interest of the Four French-Canadian Parish priests. A modest bathing suit! Unsinkable too -- you couldn't drown in it. But the real marvel was -- a girl could wear that bathing suit and be a model of shrinking modesty. The four French-Canadian priests had long wished that there was some kind of feminine swimming attire to which they could give their <sup>ecclesiastical</sup> approval. So they invested their money. But alas, the miracle ~~was~~ never materialized. Perhaps a modest bathing suit for the girls is ~~well~~ beyond the ingenuity of the most inspired inventor.

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Another story of a swindled clergyman comes from Denver. In the Colorado Metropolis a man went on trial today for passing a lot of bad checks -- how they could bounce! One of them was a fifteen-dollar check which he gave to the priest who married him --

and it bounced. Even more remarkable -- the cheeky crook gave a rubber check to the lawyer he hired to defend him on the charge of passing worthless checks.

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And now I suppose we have had enough marvels for  
one broadcast, <sup>Now</sup> so let's see what remarkable things Hugh has to  
relate.