

L.S. - Sunoco. Thursday, August 22, 1940.

We have reports today from both London and Berlin about the headline story of giant German artillery bombarding a British convoy. And for once there's no contradiction about snips being hit or not being hit. Both London and Berlin agree about the results of the shell fire.

*tl6*  
*This*  
The story is headline all right, for it tells of monster cannon mounted on the French coast along the Straits of Dover - that narrowest point of the English Channel. It's the place where a Nazi attempt to invade ~~xxxxxx~~ England might well be launched - only twenty-two miles across to the chalk cliffs. Cannon capable of shooting that distance are quite possible. The Big Berthas of the ~~xxxxxx~~ World War fired a lot further. It would seem to be obvious German tactics to place giant guns there to keep British warships away and cover an attempted crossing. Well, the Nazi High Command has placed the guns, all the way from Calais to Boulogne. A few days ago there were stories of long range shells falling on the British coast. Today a British convoy was ~~xxxx~~ passing through the narrows ~~xxx~~ of the Channel, and the Big Berthas started blasting away.

Here's the official report by the London Admiralty:-

17  
"Shortly before noon today one of our convoys in the vicinity of Dover came under fire of heavy guns mounted on the French coast. Warships escorting the convoy," it continues, "laid smoke screens to conceal the convoy from the enemy. Although some shells fell fairly close to the ships," it concludes, "no ship of the convoy was hit or received damage." So, says London, the German bombardment of the convoy was a complete failure, a flop.

What does Berlin say? The Germans agree that none of the shells of the Big Berthas hit any of the British ships. The German version is that the giant cannon were -"merely practicing." They were trying out their guns, firing some practice rounds - to see how the cannon worked, get the feel of the guns. The British convoy just accidentally happened to be passing, and the shells hit in the water nearby. It certainly would have broken Nazi hearts, if the Big Berthas had happened to hit one of those British ships. But anyway, the British got a mistaken idea about the whole thing. They thought it was an artillery attack, whereas it was only practice - so

says Berlin.

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After the convoy successfully got by the attack or the practice, it was assailed by Stuka dive bombers. London reports that the Nazi warplanes were driven off without doing any damage. Berlin doesn't give any report on that, but maybe the dive bomb attack was also just practice.

ADD SHELLING

Here's the latest. Tonight the German Big Berthas are bombarding the coast of England, firing all the way across the channel. They are hurling an incessant stream of shells, one report tells of British guns replying, an artillery duel - though we're not told how long the range of the British cannon may be. The British have another kind of reply, of course - aviation. R.A.F. bombers took off and dropped a rain of bombs, aimed at the positions where the big monster guns are stationed. So the war takes a new twist today - a battle of bombers against Big Berthas.

FRANCE

49

France is displaying bitter resentment at the British Blockade - that naval cordon which shuts off sea borne supplies from all the nations of the ~~XXXXXXX~~ Continent of Europe. Today the French Foreign Minister delivered a radio ~~xxx~~ address in which he scathingly attacked the blockade. He called it an inhuman weapon - also ineffective. Said it was, in his words "unworthy of a Christian country." Called it - "an act of hostility toward France." Declared that France would ~~xxx~~ do something to get food for the French people, keep the oceanic supply line open. The Foreign Minister' used these words - "take the necessary steps." But he didn't say ~~xxxxxxx~~ what necessary steps France would take to break the British Blockade.

He denied charges that the French withdrawal from the war had put the British on a bad spot in Somaliland. He said that even if the French in Somaliland had 'continued the struggle, it would have made no difference: They had only five thousand troops there, and the Italians would have taken British Somaliland anyway.

More and more the two former allies grow hostile ~~xxx~~ toward each other. And we can remind ourselves of what Prime

49

FRANCE--2

Minister Churchill said the other day - that France may be at  
war with Great Britain, *before long.*

FOLLOW FRANCE

Here's a still later story right along these lines.

The charge was ~~xxx~~ made in London today that the Government of Marshal Petain is turning over French military airplanes to Germany and Italy. And this declaration was issued by a Frenchman, General <sup>G</sup>Degaulle, who in London is the leader of Frenchmen outside ~~xxx~~ ~~of~~ France who have refused to accept the surrender.

He gave the number of planes as eight hundred, French military aircraft stationed in Africa. He said that right now planes of the French African Sky Fleet are taking off from Morocco, Algiers and Tunis, and are being flown to France - to be placed at the disposal of Mussolini and Hitler.

NAZIS

The Nazis in Germany are said to be fierce and forbidding, but here's one man who tells us that the Nazis in the United States are still worse. He has had experience with both. He's George Britt, the author of a book just out - a book called, The Fifth Column.

*Britt*  
He tells how in Berlin a few years ago, he was watching a Nazi demonstration, an affair of mass hysteria - just the place you'd be afraid of getting into trouble. ~~xxx~~ George Britt was snapping some pictures, when somebody touched him on the arm and said in polite English:- "Excuse me sir, but may I see your permit to take pictures?" George Britt hadn't any permit, didn't know that one was necessary. A big Storm Trooper took him into custody, and at Nazi headquarters he was questioned. It was grim and formidable, but very polite. (The Storm Trooper Sergeant who did the questioning turned out to have been a former waiter who had worked in New York. It all ended with slaps on the back - as among pals.

~~The author of the Fifth Column goes on to contrast this with experiences he has had at Nazi meetings in the United States. *Britt as* a reporter, he has covered various gatherings~~



of the Bund. He tells of being surrounded by big tough American Storm Troopers, (fierce and glowering,) and of being pushed around - not at all politely. <sup>He says</sup> ~~So it would seem that~~ Naziism imported into the United States is even worse than the native brand. ~~at home.~~

PRISONER

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Today at Montreal a man sought to cross the Victoria Bridge across the St. Lawrence. He was stopped by a Royal Canadian Mountie on guard. And he turned out to be the escaped German prisoner, sought for days by the Canadian Police.

It made quite a stir in Canada when the flight from the internment camp became known, a camp in the wilds of Ontario. With patient cunning, a tunnel was dug, and through it a German Naval ~~xxxx~~ Lieutenant ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ escaped. His name was Lorentz, although it was first reported as something else. There was a confusion of names. The escaped prisoner, having got out of the camp, was far from nowhere. He would have to make his way through many miles of wilderness. That added to the drama of the get away. The days of hunt for him were fruitless -- the Naval Lieutenant prisoner of war had vanished in the vast spaces of <sup>the</sup> northern country.

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Now he is recaptured at Montreal -- after a long and formidable journey. When the mounties grabbed him he was in good shape, none the worse for the ordeal. Tonight he's on his way back to the prison camp.

## CONSCRIPTION

The conscription debate still drags on in Washington. It's pretty dreary, though it is gathering a bit of dramatics. Today in the Capitol, nine mothers, dressed in black took their places ~~in~~ in the reception hall just outside ~~of~~ the Senate Chamber. There the nine mothers in black established what they call a death watch. They're opposed to the Conscription Bill, and are the same ladies who yesterday burned Senator Pepper in effigy on the lawn outside. Senator Pepper is an ardent advocate of the compulsory service bill.

One member of the death watch is Mrs. Rose M. Faber of Detroit, Vice-President of <sup>Quote:-</sup> "The mothers of the United States of America." She stated ~~in~~ today that the mournful picketing will be continued ~~until~~ until the Senate votes finally on the selective service bill. And she issued a further warning:- "if the Senate passes this bill," said she, "we will move over to the House of Representatives. If the House passes it we will establish death watches in congressional districts until election time."

While the mothers in black were death watching,  
the Senators ~~xx~~ were having their ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxx~~ usual continuity  
of talk. The Isolationists today consumed a lot of time with  
speeches - so much so that it began to look like a filibuster.

A filibuster it is, declared Senator Schwartz of Wyoming, and  
he explained: "One Isolationist gets up, and another interrupts  
and agrees with him, consuming time." Yes, they're using up  
plenty of time on ~~x~~ conscription, about as much time as it  
takes ~~in~~ the army to get volunteers.

ARGENTINE

The President of Argentina resigned today - Roberto Ortiz. They've been having a scandal in Buenos Aires, because of money matters connected with the purchase of an army airfield. President Ortiz has been ill for some time, and he arose from a sick bed to hold conferences concerning the uproar. Today he held a cabinet meeting, at which plans for the reorganization of the Argentine Government were discussed. The reorganization apparently begins at the top. Ortiz resigns, and is automatically succeeded by the vice-president - Senor Castillo.

5

TROTSKY

The Leon Trotsky affair is still a mystery tonight. Trotsky died in the expressed belief ~~xxxxxx~~ that his murder was instigated by Stalin and the Ogpu. The Mexican police believe the same thing. Today General Manuel Nunez, the Chief of Police of Mexico City, declared his opinion that Trotsky had fallen victim to an international plot, in which the Ogpu was involved. He thinks that the successful attempt was connected with that previous ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ unsuccessful effort to assassinate ~~Trotsky~~ Trotsky three months ago. <sup>¶</sup> The best detectives in Mexico are concentrating on the case, but thus far no revelation is made. The killer is being questioned rigorously, but so far he is not quoted as saying anything more than what he said yesterday - that he killed Trotsky because the former Red Warlord tried to persuade him to commit acts of sabotage in Soviet Russia.

Trotsky's death is producing reverberations far and wide. Today in New York a movement was announced to bring the body of the former War Lord of Red Russia to the United States for a ceremonial funeral. The plan is sponsored by the Socialist ~~Workers~~ Workers party, which is the Trotsky faction of Communism. James P. Cannon, the Trotskyite National Secretary, declares:

"We plan to hold the funeral here to give the working people of New York an opportunity to show their reverence for the memory of this great leader and their hatred and contempt for Stalinism. There's talk that Cannon may succeed Trotsky as the leader of the Fourth Internationale - the anti-Soviet brand of Communism. This Fourth Internationale doesn't seem to be so very important, but any internationale needs a leader.

Still another pronouncement about Trotsky was made in New York today, but it wasn't so favorable. The speaker was Kerensky, who was the head of the ~~ixxxx~~ liberal Russian Republic which was overthrown by Lenin and Trotsky. Says Kerensky:- "He died exactly as he had planned and executed the assassination of his own opponents when he had the upper hand in Russia. He started the secret police which finally brought his own death," says Kerensky. <sup>R</sup> Well, that's a thought which must occur to all - the thought that Trotsky has gone the way of those other Bolshevik chiefs whom Stalin has killed, victims of the terror they helped to create.

## LODGE

Here's news that will have spiritualists all agog - the mediums and the psychics, those possessed of occult powers. Sir Oliver Lodge died today, that eminent man of science who was also an ardent believer in spiritualism. He passed to the great beyond, determined on a test of the truth of his conviction that the dead do communicate with the living. That test now awaits fulfillment.

In Nineteen Eight, the world was astonished when one of its most important scientists spoke forth in favor of spiritualism. At that time, thirty-two years ago, Sir Oliver Lodge had already reached the height of his fame as a physicist - notable for his experiments in the field of electricity. Science in general frowned severely on the theory of ghosts, but Sir Oliver Lodge declared he had investigated the proofs and had come to the belief. His faith was intensified when his own son, Raymond, was killed in the World War. He wrote a book telling of his conversations with Raymond.

He determined that when he himself died there should be a test - a proof for the world. He deposited with the Psychic Society in London a sealed message. It was to be kept



5/12  
a secret until he died. Then he himself, as a spirit, would try to communicate it to the mediums of the earth. This sealed message was deposited with the London Society years ago, for Sir Oliver Lodge was eighty-nine years old when today the time for the test began. Will it be successful? Will some spirit transference communicate to mediums the secret message which is waiting to be opened as proof? Many of the occult, no doubt, will make a try - and during weeks to come we may expect to hear stories of communications with the shade of Sir Oliver Lodge.

9  
In the meantime, while we are waiting to hear from the shade of Sir Oliver, <sup>(speaking to us from Heaven,)</sup> let's hear from Hugh James - in the flesh, speaking to us from Radio City.