

P.T. - Sunoco. Wed., August 21, 1940.

In a hospital in Mexico City a man lies dying who ~~XXXX~~ once made history on a gigantic scale. In his time he was accused of having himself sent many human beings to their death. And tonight the ~~world~~ ^{whole world - much of it} is conjecturing what lies back of the murderous attack on Leon Trotsky, ^{the} one-time war lord of the ~~Bolshevik~~ Red Armies ^{of Russia}.

When we say that he's dying, the more precise ~~diagnosis~~ ^{still} diagnosis is that Lenin's erstwhile partner has a ~~one-to-ten~~ ^{shadow of a chance.} chance of surviving. By tomorrow morning, there

will be two American brain specialists, one from Baltimore, one from Los Angeles, at his bedside. They ^{are flying to} ~~will fly late tonight~~ ^{Mexico to} ~~try to save the life of the Revolution Maker.~~ ^{Trotsky,}

~~According to one account,~~ ^{Trotsky} he himself does not believe

that he will live. His private ~~secretary~~ ^{secretary} telephoned a statement to New York that ~~Trotsky's~~ ^{this} last conscious words were,

I quote: "I will not survive this attack. Stalin has finally accomplished the task he attempted unsuccessfully before."

At last accounts he was groaning, no longer in a coma, but the

Mexican surgeons who operated, ^{now give him only} ~~sa I said, accord him but~~
a slim chance.

~~Trotsky~~ ^{Trotsky}
Around the man who stabbed ~~him~~ there flies a volume
of conflicting statements. He ^{was} ~~was~~ known at the Villa where
Trotsky lived as Frank Jackson, an American, married to an
American wife. But after he was taken to the hospital, badly
wounded himself, he told a different story ~~of it~~ to the
Chief of Police of Mexico City. His real name, he says,

^{is} ~~was~~ Van Den Dreschd. ^{He adds that he} ~~He~~ was born of Belgian ~~parents~~ parents,
in Persia, and is a newspaper man by profession. He is reported
further to be the son of a Belgian diplomat, a cosmopolitan
fellow, speaking ^{who} English, Russian and French equally well. ^{one}
^{odd thing} ~~He also said to~~ about it all is that he told
the Chief of Police these words:- "I would
give my lifeblood for Trotsky".

But here's another statement from Trotsky's private
Secretary. After Van Den Dreschd made his **murderous** attack on
the Bolshevik war lord, he was grabbed by the bodyguards, who
started to beat the life out of him. They stopped only when

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Trotsky himself cried: "Let him live, let him live", after which Trotsky fell unconscious. The attacker then pleaded for his life, shouting, "They made me do it, they made me do it." *Whereupon*

~~Then~~ he explained: "They threatened to kill my mother."

According to friends of Trotsky, "they", in this case, meant the agents of Stalin.

Others attributed the ~~pm~~ plot to Hitler, and among these is the famous Mexican artist, Diego Rivera, at whose house Trotsky lived for a while before they quarreled.

Rivera declares that it was necessary to Hitler's plans to have

Trotsky removed from Mexico in order to bring Russia more

completely into the Rome-Berlin axis. ^{Rivera} ~~He~~ declares that the

last attempt on Trotsky's life, in May, was unsuccessful

because the agents had orders not to kill him but to kidnap

and ~~ix~~ take him back to Russia.

The Mexican police were also questioning a handsome

blonde, supposed to be a friend of the assailant, Van Den

Dreschd. She told them her name was Sylvia Angeloff of Brooklyn.

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She said she met Van Den Dreschd through her sister, who was once Secretary to Trotsky. And she told the police, sobbing, that "If Trotsky dies I'm ~~going~~ going to kill myself."

Tragedy, mystery and history, all in one story.

What will be the effect ~~on~~ of this attack on the history of the world? *We wonder.*

Adolf Hitler's principal contribution to the news today was to carry the battle of Britain into the waters around Ireland. His raiders dropped bombs on vessels in the Irish Sea, but the British claim ~~that~~ they did no damage. And a Nazi plane crashed ^{into} the side of a mountain in the middle of a thick fog, in County Carey. The first thing the ~~neighboring~~ neighbors knew of it was when they saw the blazing wreckage.

All this led to the wonder ^{as to} whether these incidents might not induce the Irish to drop their neutrality. But the leaders of Eire ^{say that} ~~are against any such idea. They point out that for one thing, it~~ would be bad for Britain, ^{and would} ~~creating~~ dangers not only from outside but from inside Eire. It would offer the Germans an excuse to invade the island, and, also might provoke an Irish Socialist revolution.

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~~At the same time, the Irish leaders~~ ^{say they} ~~are not at all keen on the prospect of a victorious Germany. One leader said that hitherto Eire~~ ^{has} ~~was~~ ^{only had to fight on one political front. If Germany wins, she might be ~~obliged to appease the claims of two European powers. So the government of the Free State~~}

~~It~~
 will continue their policy of watchful armed neutrality.

There were no spectacular raids over Britain today on account of the weather. The British today had the help of a valuable ally, ~~the~~ general clouds. But some of Hitler's raiders broke through the clouds and dropped bombs in the manufacturing districts of the Midlands, also on the East and southeast coasts.

The Nazis claim that these raids, though on a small scale, were important and effective. They say that sometimes a lone raider piercing through the clouds can aim with better effect than if he were one of a large squadron ^{having to} ~~have to~~ fight against the pursuit planes of the defenders. The Nazi spokesmen keep talking in the same vein as last week,

promising a battle on a new scale of terror ^{as soon as the} ~~the first day~~
~~murky~~ ~~the~~ clouds ^{roll away.} and list ~~let~~ ~~mark~~ up.

~~The bad flying conditions hampered the British Air Force also. There were no raids on Germany last night.~~

The British also ~~report~~ report a fresh intensity of submarine attacks on British shipping. But they declare that the convoy

system in this war has been just as protective against submarine attack as it was in the world war. As for the magnetic mines, which created a sensation a few months ago, they've been made ineffectual by the use of ~~an~~ equipment which repels instead of attracting ^S those mines.
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Some British officials declare that the let-up in the raids ~~x~~ for the last few days has been due to a fact which the Germans won't admit, that those great ^{air} battles of last week were ~~a failure~~ disastrous to the Nazis.

ITALY FOLLOW WAR

But the Royal Air Force was ~~most~~ active elsewhere.

British bombers poured a rain of explosive on Italian positions throughout Ethiopia. This was admitted by Italian headquarters who described it as "violent enemy action." The British also made reconnaissance flights over Italian positions in British Somaliland.

WARNING

The most interesting war news out of Italy tonight concerns not actions, but words. Duce Mussolini threw^s out a warning to the United States. ~~At least, we may take it as coming from him, since it appeared~~ In his own newspaper. ~~It~~ It accuses the United States of providing war help to Great Britain and thereby assuming a grave responsibility before the world and history. The Duce's paper goes on to describe this policy as odious, and says it is causing large quantities of the blood of European Youth to be shed (on the battlefield.

The Fascist paper charges the United States with having sent

large numbers of airplanes and destroyers to Britain. But, *the article adds that this will now be prevented,* ~~it added, this system will now be counterattacked~~ by Italy's ~~and GERMANY~~ ^{and} Germany's blockade of the British Isles.

AMERICAN LEGION

There's ^{is} ~~good~~ reason tonight to believe that the ~~steamer~~
American Legion is safe; I don't mean that great organization
of war veterans ~~but that~~ ^{that} transport of Uncle Sam's Army which
is bringing home those eight hundred and ninety-seven war
refugees from Northern Europe. So their friends and relatives
may rest easy for the news is official, ^{it} comes from Sumner Welles,
Acting Secretary of State.

■ About noon, Greenwich Time, the master sent a
radio message to Washington giving his position at sea. After
the State Department had figured it out on the official maps,
they calculated that the vessel had passed the danger zone; ~~had~~
~~left behind her~~ ^{the} ~~those waters North of Britain~~ ^{that are dotted with} filled with
German mines. Her position, figured ~~at~~ out at noon today,
Greenwich Time, would be about ~~x~~ four hundred miles West of
Ireland. ~~That~~ ^{all of which} puts ^{to} an end to a ticklish situation, removes
~~any likelihood of tragedy,~~ ^{and of the consequences} also of a grave, even disastrous,
~~dispute with Nazi Germany.~~

PRISONER

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There's a bit of excitement in the Canadian Province
of Ontario ^{today — over two} ~~over a couple of~~ escaped prisoners. One of them is
~~being hunted with particular ~~keen~~ keenness because he's a~~
~~German Naval Lieutenant.~~ ^{who} He got away from an internment camp
away up in the Northwest ^{corner} of the Province of Ontario. The
~~Mounties~~ ^{Mounties} Provincial Police declare he must have been helped by
some of the Canadian workmen at the camp. ~~For that~~ ^{The} German naval
~~officer~~ ^{officer} not only dug a tunnel ^{all the way} out of that camp but ^{he} dug it
so far and so deep that it needed to be timbered. ^(like a mine tunnel.) Without the
~~help of others~~ ^{help of others} ~~connivance of the workmen,~~ he never could have got ^{ten} hold of
either the wood or the tools to do all that tunneling.

That German Naval Officer was one of a batch of
prisoners brought over from Great Britain. The man who ~~disappeared~~
~~disappeared~~ ^{disappeared} with him, ^{is} was a Canadian, born in the ^{Dominion} country. The
Canadian officials believe that since ~~that~~ German speaks no
English, the chances are that he will either have to die of
hunger or give himself up. ^{TR} Colonel Halston, Defense Minister
of Canada, says he knows of no signs of Fifth Column activity
around that Internment Camp. Canada has eight thousand prisoners

of war to take care of now, and the escape of this one lone

naval officer, ~~xxxxx~~ says the Defense Minister, is not ~~an~~ *a very*

~~awfully~~ serious problem.

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Representative Martin Dies, Chairman of the Committee on Un-American activities, is on the warpath again. He makes charges against the Secretary of Labor, Madam Perkins, and the Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, accuses them of favoring and protecting Trojan Horse organizations in the United States.

Dies says his committee has discovered that in this country there are some six million persons who belong to either communist, fascist or Nazi organizations. But he says the danger to us lies not in their numbers but in the positions that their leaders hold in American industry and American life, — key positions, he calls them. And he says of Harold Ickes and Madam Perkins that if they continue to lend aid and comfort to those enemy organizations, they should be driven out of public office.

Congressman
Dies today received a wire from the Imperial Wizard of the ~~Klux~~ Ku Klux Klan. It was about that meeting at a Nazi Bund Camp in New Jersey last Sunday, a meeting at which New Jersey members of the Ku Klux Klan were photographed with Bund leaders. James A. Colescott, the Wizard of the Klan, told

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Martin Dies ^{that} the American people should be told the true facts and one true fact, he says, is that the Klan has repeatedly insisted that Congress should dissolve all alien organizations including the Communist Party and the Deutsch-America Bund.

CONSCRIPTION

In Congress, the Senators opposed to conscription took another tack today. It took the shape of an amendment to the conscription bill offered by the voluble Senator Josh Lee of Oklahoma. He said that if we were going to draft man ~~xxx~~ power we should also draft wealth. And he spoke vehemently about reports that manufacturers have refused contracts to make munitions because eight percent profit is not enough.

That amendment to conscript wealth led to quite an angry dispute. Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri spoke scornfully, told his colleagues they were willing to draft the blood and brawn of the country's youth, but to let the wealth of the country go scot free.

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But the argument came to a sudden finish on a point of order. Senator Ellender of Louisiana pointed out that Senator Lee's ~~xxxxx~~ amendment to conscript wealth made the bill a ~~xxxxxxx~~ revenue measure, and of course by the ~~xxxxx~~ ~~xxxxx~~ ~~xxxxx~~ Constitution of the United States all revenue bills have to originate in the House. That made the opponents

of conscription still more furious. But there were only twenty-three of them as against fifty-four on the other side, so the amendment was lost.

Meanwhile ^{a rather} ~~quite a~~ hectic scene was being enacted outside the Senate chamber ~~of~~ on the lawn of the capitol.

A hundred women marched onto the lawn carrying a dummy with a long rope. They dragged it over to a maple tree and swung the rope over one of the branches. When the dummy was raised the spectators could see a placard reading: "Claud Benedict ~~Aronald~~ Pepper," meaning Senator Pepper of Florida.

Among the spectators was a middle-aged man who ~~was rash~~ ^{called the}

~~enough to call that~~ ^{performance} an Un-American demonstration. ^{Whereupon}

^{this man} ~~the misguided fellow~~ promptly found himself the center of a

hundred violent ^m ~~screaming~~ ^{he} ~~the man~~ was saved only by

the intervention of the Capitol police. The cops also cut

the dummy down and made the women taken it along with them.

They marched off singing "We'll hand ~~Cl~~aud Pepper to a sour apple tree".

The ladies who took part in this show announced that they ~~represent~~ ^{ed} represent ten thousand American mothers.

JEHOVAH

A Deputy Sheriff is dead at North Windham, Maine,
and a preacher is in jail, charged with his murder. ~~That's~~ *This as*
the culmination of a series of rows over the sect known
as "Jehovah's Witnesses". All summer the countryside in Maine
has rung with violent argument ^{concerning} ~~over~~ the activities of that cult.
Only last week there was a brawl in the streets of Portland,
a couple of Jehovah's Witnesses were arrested, ~~and~~ convicted
of assault, ^{and} then appealed their convictions. One of them was
Arthur F. Cox of Philadelphia, a minister ^{of the Jehovah} ~~of that~~ creed.

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The Deputy Sheriff who was killed was working on his
motor car in his garage. A couple of Jehovah's Witnesses, one
^{Preacher Cox} ~~Cox~~, walked into his garage carrying a phonograph.
It is part of the tactics of Jehovah's Witnesses to play
records to people whom they want to convert. The Deputy
Sheriff told the phonograph players to get out. When they
refused, he climbed out from underneath his car where he
was at work. And then, so the police charge, the Reverend Cox
drew a revolver from a bag and shot ~~xxx~~ at the Deputy Sheriff.

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A neighbor ~~then~~ ran to the scene of the tragedy, grabbed a heavy tire-iron, and prevented ~~those~~^e two Jehovah's Witnesses from leaving until the Sheriff arrived with a couple of other deputies.

When the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ news became known, the neighborhood became inflamed with rage. ^{and} The county attorney asked the police of Portland to mobilize all their reserves.

When that Jehovah's Witness Minister was arraigned in court this morning, there were six hundred people outside the court-house. But thirty policemen were on the job to keep them

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outside. And the story ends there — for the present.

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And my broadcast ends there except for what Hugh has to tell us.