

L.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Sept. 30, 1941.

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Great Britain today admitted that the great battleship NELSON had been torpedoed in a clash with Italian warplanes. A Fascist torpedo plane ^{did} score a hit, and the NELSON was damaged, but not seriously - says London. Its speed ~~was~~ reduced somewhat - that's all. Otherwise, the British utterly deny the Italian claim that British warships were sunk, three cruisers sent to the bottom. Nothing to it, says London, and adds - that the convoy fought its way victoriously through the Straits of Sicily, and went on to Egypt.

Rome, however, makes still another claim today - declaring that the convoy was forced to turn back to Gibraltar. All of which is considerable contradiction.

There ^{is likewise} ~~is still more~~ conflicting word about British shipping losses. In Parliament ~~today~~ Prime Minister Churchill declared that British tonnage sunk in the Atlantic during July, August and September had been cut down to one-third. It was only one-third as great as the total of ships sunk during the previous three months.

Berlin answers this with another claim of huge destruction in the Battle of the Atlantic. The Germans declare that six hundred

47 and sixty-two thousand tons of British shipping were sunk in

September alone. (They insist that during the three months' period mentioned by Churchill, the losses were immense, and claim that the sinkings throughout the war thus far come to a total of more than fourteen million tons.)

The immediate war situation is obscure. Berlin claims another encirclement on the southern front - a smaller trap this time. Several divisions of Red Army troops are described as having been caught by the blitzkrieg. And the Germans report new Soviet counter-attacks. Moscow describes victories, and claims that the Germans have been stopped everywhere.

A shroud of censorship has descended on the battlefront again, with Berlin saying that the veil will be raised pretty soon. "You newspapermen," a spokesman told Berlin correspondents, "are going to have a little dry spell ahead of you - but only a little one." ^{Meaning} ~~There was~~ a promise of a new blast of German victories.

War prospects were discussed by Winston Churchill today. He told the London Parliament that Nazi Germany was not short of any vital war material - except aircraft, ^Which, of course, would seem to be an important kind of shortage. The Prime Minister said that the Nazis have not enough planes for the Russian war and the western area at the same time, not enough for two fronts.

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Churchill added that he couldn't tell what the Hitler strategy might be. The Nazis might go on the defensive in Russia during the

winter, and strike against the Near East in huge force.

Churchill foresees that possibility - but isn't sure.

There's a lively denial that the Red Army commander on the southern front has been executed, Marshal Budenny. There were rumors that after his heavy defeats he had been shot by order of Stalin. Today Soviet Vice-Commissar Lozovsky described the Budenny story in these words:- "It contains less truth than Goebbels has conscience." It's interesting to have the Reds and the Nazis discussing such matters as truth and conscience.

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Meanwhile, the disturbances in the occupied countries go on. The focus is on Czechoslovakia, where the Nazis have executed three former Czech generals. They were charged with being members of ^a ~~the~~ group that was collecting weapons to use against the Germans in case of a revolt.

SOVIET RELIGION

President Roosevelt stated today that Soviet Russia has freedom of religion - as much liberty of conscience as we have in this country. He pointed to the Soviet Constitution - which, of course, is quite democratic in form. It was adopted a few years ago, and provided for ~~quite~~ a liberal sort of government - civil rights proclaimed. According to this Constitution, Russia is not a dictatorship at all, and Stalin is no dictator. ^{HP It was} ~~It is~~ rather ironical, therefore, that the Soviet Charter of liberty was promptly followed by the purges, those Moscow trials, ~~the~~ executions and ~~the~~ killings. However, the Constitution is still there - and today President Roosevelt pointed out that it guarantees several kinds of freedom. The President made special reference to the following three:-

One, said he, "freedom of conscience." Two - "freedom of religion." Three - "freedom to use propaganda against religion." The President said it was about the same in this country, and he illustrated by the fact that there is no interference if a speaker mounts a soap box and spouts propaganda against various religious beliefs.

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All of which adds a special interest to a ~~summary~~ brief bulletin from Moscow. It states that the newspaper, which has been

the organ of the Society of the Godless, has ceased publication.

During the past, the Society of the Godless has been much in the Moscow news, but now its newspaper is out of business. Because of a shortage of paper, says Moscow.

ROME

The possibility of the British bombing of Rome was stated definitely today - by Prime Minister ~~Winston~~ Churchill. He referred to the recent heavy air raids against Italian war centers - bombing attacks which, by the way, are in the news again today. The R.A.F. tells of striking heavily at such important places as Palermo in Sicily. There's British comment that these bombings are intended to crack Italy, put the Fascist nation out of the war. And Prime Minister Churchill declared today that the Royal Air Force would not hesitate to bomb Rome - if the necessities of war should dictate such a course.

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This ties in with reports of the Myron Taylor mission to the Vatican. There's a rumor that Pope Pius talked with President Roosevelt's emissary about the possibility of guaranteeing the Eternal City against high explosive from the sky. The Fascist Government today makes a defiant reply to the Churchill threat.

Italian authorities said they would fight off British air raiders that might seek to bomb Rome. This, however, ^{was accompanied by the} ~~was countered~~ ~~was annulled by the~~

rather wistful remark that during the Italian-Greek war, the

~~Exf~~ Fascists had never bombed Athens - that monument of classical

antiquity. And they repeated the contention that equally classical Rome is demilitarized and has no war industries.

MANEUVERS

Here's a question most timely -- "what's wrong with the army?" We've an answer from Lieutenant -General Leslie McNair of the Army High Command. He gives a report on lesson learned in the giant maneuvers held by the second and third armies in the South.

Today a formal report was made to high officers assembled at Camp Polk in Louisiana, and Lieutenant-General McNair revealed that the war games had shown what he called -- " ^a mess of faults."

The General said that the number one fault was in leadership -- a lot of officers not up to their jobs. His report is that the Army can be vastly improved by a removal of what he calls -- "weak officers." He said there would not be any purge of lieutenants, captains, majors and colonels, but added that when it is possible to replace a weak officer with a strong officer the change will be made.

Another fault he said, was -- discipline, and that connected with the question of leadership. "Our troops are capable of the best discipline. If they lack it - leadership is faulty." And he added: "A commander who cannot develop proper discipline must be replaced."

SHOPPING

Here's a business report - news about sales in retail shops. The new heavy taxes on many kinds of luxury goods will go into effect tomorrow. So today was the last day to buy - before the taxes.

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New York: The rush developed in a big way yesterday, and continued today. Stores reported that the sales on taxable items ranged from fifty to a hundred per cent greater than during the corresponding period last year. (Expensive furs went like hot cakes - from a hundred dollar jackets to forty-five hundred dollar mink coats. Jewelry and cosmetics competed with liquors in the volume of sales.)

Buffalo: Beat-the-tax-business was from sixty to eighty per cent above normal.

~~Boston: Increases in sales began nearly two weeks ago, and were exceedingly heavy today.~~

Washington: One fur dealer reported sales to be ten times as great as last year. As early as eight thirty this morning, lines of buyers were waiting at camera shops.

Philadelphia: A two hundred per cent increase was reported

in sales of perfumes and cosmetics. Business in radios, phonographs and pianos was a hundred per cent above normal.

Detroit: The Board of Commerce reported that the increase in retail buying was - "immense". This in spite of unemployment resulting from the curtailment of automobile production.

Indianapolis: Fur dealers reported a jump of as much as four hundred per cent in sales during the past ten days.

Chicago: Department store buying was described in these words:- "Far in excess of the pre-Christmas rush."

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Denver: Merchants reported sales increases of from ten to five hundred per cent, as thousands of buyers rushed to stock up before ~~NEW~~ the new taxes became effective.

~~So it would appear that the way to boom business is to slap on a heavy tax, the only trouble being What will happen after if the tax has gone into effect?~~

SOCIAL SECURITY

An extension of Social Security was announced in Washington today. President Roosevelt stated that he is going to ask Congress to broaden the Social Security program so that it will cover twice as many workers as are now covered. Forty million are eligible, ^{but the} ~~for Social Security now. The~~ President wants to increase ^{it} ~~that~~ to eighty million. He said that this may bring about a boost ¹ in the tax on payrolls.

FIGHT

I don't know if any of you folks have been thinking of seeing the motion pictures of the big fight last night. If so - you won't. You won't be able to go to a motion picture theatre and see Joe Louis and Lou Nova in action - or was it action? That's the point. There wasn't enough active hostilities in the six rounds the bout lasted.

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Today Promotor Mike Jacobs announced that the Louis-Nova fight pictures will not be released. They won't be shown in the movie theatres. And Jacobs gives the reason in the following succinct words: "There wasn't enough action to warrant a commercial film of the fight," says he. In other words - not enough fight for fight pictures.

With this I agree, having witnessed the heavyweight
As I sat beside former Amateur
imbroglio last night. It looked to ~~me~~ as if all ~~that~~ the champion
did was ~~to~~ stalk his man, size him up, figure him out, and then
plant the paralyzing punch. Nova was rather surprising - he was the
only boxer ~~that~~ I ever saw who leaned over backwards. That's the
kind of stance he took. It reminded one of those old-time battlers

heavyweight champion of the world

of London prizefighting days, who squared off with their fists extended, leaning far back.

Maybe that was the dynamic balance ^{Nova}~~he~~ learned from Yoga philosophy. If so, the Yoga metaphysics went most dynamically off balance when Joe Louis landed the crusher.

Another bit of the Hindu mysticism that Lou Nova had learned from his Yogi teachers was - the Cosmic punch. ^{And}~~he~~ ~~sent it,~~ of course, the sports writers today ^{are}~~were~~ making remarks saying that there was a cosmic punch, but Joe Louis had it. In other words, the cosmic punch hit the wrong guy.

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Today a revelation was made of something that occurred in the world of sports fourteen years ago. To this day, people will ask -- "Why did Gene Tunney retire so soon? Why did he give up the heavyweight championship after holding it for only two years?"

Well, the secret is now revealed - and it makes rather a surprising disclosure. Today a book was published, called - "Arms For Living", by Gene Tunney. In it the former title holder, now a Lieutenant-Commander in the Navy, tells of his task as Director of the Navy's Physical Fitness Program. And Gene relates the story of his boxing career, with special emphasis on the troubles he encountered as the champ who ^{loved} ~~like~~ literature, the ~~great~~ ^{prize-} ^{ring} ^{not in} ^{fight clubs, but} Shakespearian who lectured on Shakespeare at Yale. Then he reveals the secret of why he gave up the championship.

"There was one particular reason for retiring," Gene Tunney writes. "It was something that has never been published until now. I would have shrunk from saying it then. I would not have dared to tell it -- because of the howl and ridicule that would have gone up." And to this he adds: "The reason was - study and books. I wanted to devote myself to an intensive course of reading, a scholastic life of learning and letters."

So that's why Gene Tunney retired - he did it for Shakespeare. So the next question is - "How did it work out?"

Tunney goes on to tell how he went to live in the country, and devoted himself to books. "I read and reread all of Shakespeare," he relates, "dug into the generality of English literature and the foreign classics, works of philosophy, history and art."

Yes, Shakespeare in a big way. But once again -- how did it work out?

In his book, "Arms For Living ", Tunney makes the following confession. "I grew utterly bored with books, I plugged on stubbornly, reading and reading, but boredom only increased. It was no use. I couldn't stand it any longer."

So the ^{fistic} ~~great~~ Shakespearian got tired of Shakespeare.

Whereupon Gene Tunney went into business, and now is back in athletics - as Director of the physical fitness program of the Navy.

Alas, poor Shakespeare! he knew him well —
too well.

BASEBALL

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The question of the hour in baseball is - Who will ^{Lippy}~~Durocher~~ send to the mound ^{pitch} tomorrow? There's no question about the pitcher on the other side - the Yankee side. Manager Joe McCarthy announced today that his veteran right-hander, Charlie Ruffing, will start the opening game of the World Series. The logical choice for Brooklyn would seem to be Wyatt - the ace right-hander, wise and canny veteran who is conceded to have a good chance to stop the powerhouse hitting of the Yankees^S. Today, however, a statement by Dodger Manager Durocher left the issue in doubt. Veteran Curt Davis and Fat Freddy Fitzsimmons are in the picture. Durocher said he wouldn't make his ~~xxx~~ choice until game time, but said that he would choose one of three - Wyatt, Davis or Fitzsimmons.

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So the frenzied Flatbush Faithful are left in breathless suspense. They are breathless anyway, after the wild tumultuous riotous and rowdy demonstration they staged yesterday in honor of their Beloved Bums. And they are also in suspense about the weather tomorrow. The prognostication is rain. Now Hugh, what do you ~~prog~~ prog-nosticate.

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