

FRANCE

C.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, Oct. 22, 1941.

In France, terrorism is fighting terrorism. The Nazis, as they promised yesterday, executed fifty French hostages in reprisal for the assassination of Lieutenant-Colonel Holtz at Nantes. But before the firing squads had done their work, another German officer, a Major, was murdered at Bordeaux. In fact, the ink was hardly dry on the Nazi proclamation before that latest assassination was committed.

The Nazi authorities acted as before. They arrested a and clamped on the curfew. hundred hostages at Bordeaux. What we learn from France shows that there's no end in sight to this matching of terror against terror.

Observers are pointing out that the Germans are now in a quandary. It is obvious that **their** reprisals have no effect, except to ~~merely~~ provoke an endless continuance of these terrorist assassinations. The French ~~xxx~~ police insist the ~~believe that these~~ attacks on German officers are committed not by **just** nationalists, patriots; but are the work of ~~as you might call them, but~~ Communists. There's every reason to ~~believe the police.~~ They say **that** the assassins are young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty, trained in Communist youth camps.

There are **even** reports of an ~~that there's~~ an organization of more than

three thousand Communist youths at work all over France, <sup>and that</sup> ~~to~~  
<sup>to these</sup> ~~Communist~~, the execution of fellow countrymen, hostages, means  
nothing. In fact they welcome it, believing that the wholesale  
executions by the Nazis will serve merely to infuriate the general  
masses of the population ~~more and more~~ not only against the Nazis  
but against the Petain Government. <sup>And</sup> Private accounts received  
from France indicate that the executions are having just that effect.

There were urgent appeals today both by ~~Colonel~~ Petain  
and ~~Admiral~~ Darlan over the radio. Petain begged his countrymen  
not to let harm befall France. And he used these words:- "Under  
the Armistice we laid down our arms and we have not the right to  
take them up again and strike the Germans in the back." ~~The~~  
~~municipal authority~~ at Nantes declared that ~~Lieutenant-Colonel~~  
~~Holtz~~ who was shot there, was a good, just and kind man with an  
~~intelligent comprehension~~. Such appeals of course mean nothing  
to young Communists who have ~~xxxx~~ been trained to look upon  
terrorism as a revolutionary instrument and reprisals by the  
enemy as another incident to revolutionary terror.

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The Nazis have their hands full in Belgium too, with sabotage and other disorders. They <sup>have</sup> arrested six hundred Belgians in Antwerp alone, and a couple of German officers were killed there too.

And, they ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> maintaining six or seven <sup>Nazi</sup> divisions in Yugoslavia.

The Nazi drive on Moscow has been slowed up - they admitted it, ~~themselves~~. The panzer divisions found themselves battling against not only the Red armies but pelting snowstorms. Even in the invaluable industrial Donets basin, they had to put the brakes on. But Hitler's high command declared that this was not because of any strong Russian defense but in order to give their tired troops a breathing spell after long, ~~en~~forced marches throughout the last two weeks. Even so, they say, they have control of seventy per cent of the Soviets' coal, eighty-five per cent of their iron ore, eighty-five per cent of their pig iron, eighty-four per cent of their tin, most of their manganese, nichol, platinum and bauxite.

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—  
Yesterday the <sup>German</sup> high command told us they had captured the city in the Donets basin named after Stalin. Today their air arm has been **effectively** bombing and machine-gunning the Red army positions <sup>and</sup> ~~in~~ concentrations near Issum, seventy-five miles north of Stalino.

The Nazi news agency reports that Goering's bombers have thrown the retreating Red armies into <sup>wild disorder,</sup> ~~disaster~~. But that's

Nevertheless, the Russian armies are still said to be fighting as a unit, and the Nazi admissions give us room to believe the report broadcast from Moscow that the Red armies in the southern front have stopped Hitler's advance on Rostov. The Soviet news agency announces that the Germans trying to turn the flank of the Russian armies have been driven back.

ADD WAR

London reports that even neutral military experts believe Hitler's armies are stymied, at least for the time being. They point out significantly that Hitler's tremendous mechanized machine has now been not much more than an hour's ride from the Kremlin for the last three days and in those three days ~~it~~ seems to have made no progress at all. <sup>But</sup> The experts in London are not <sup>too</sup> terribly optimistic, however. Snowstorms affect not only Nazi <sup>the</sup> invaders but the Red defenders. <sup>Just the same there is</sup> ~~For all that, there's~~ an impression that the Nazi drive has lost its momentum and it may be doubtful whether they can organize a fresh one this winter.

~~All of which ought not to lead to any wishful thinking.~~

IRAN

We seem to be often learning things about ourselves from Britain before they're announced in our own country. Today we have Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden telling the world that the United States is building supply lines to Russia through Iran. Foreign Secretary Eden told this to the House of Commons. Later the news was confirmed in Washington, and the minute Congress passes the second Lend-Lease appropriation our government will take steps to increase the capacity of the railroad across Iran. In fact plans have already been prepared. The railroad that was the pride and joy of the Shah who left the throne not many weeks ago.

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There will be no  
~~The British will positively not start any~~ invasion of Europe  
to help <sup>the</sup> Soviet <sup>s</sup>Russia. Everybody has long suspected this, but  
today it became official. It was proclaimed in the British House  
of Peers by Lord Moyne who spoke for the government.

This ~~was~~  
~~Lord Moyne made this~~ in reply to another peer, Lord  
Strabolgi, formerly a commander in the King's Navy. Lord Strabolgi  
told the Lords that the Germans had only twenty-five divisions  
of second-line troops in all western Europe. And he added:-  
"American information, which probably is right, is that they have  
less than one hundred tanks for police purposes." Then Lord  
Strabolgi accomplished a rare feat, he made the House of Lords  
laugh. ~~That was when~~ he said the war was too ~~fi~~ serious to be  
left to professional soldiers. And he asked:- "Where would we  
<sup>have</sup> ~~had~~ been in Nineteen Seventeen and Eighteen if it had not been  
for amateur strategists like Prime Minister Lloyd George?"

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In answer to the former Naval officer, Lord Moyne said it  
would be madness for the British to try to open up <sup>a</sup> ~~their~~ second  
front in the West. <sup>and</sup> ~~Then~~ he continued: ~~xxx~~ "I cannot imagine anything  
which would suit Hitler better than if we adopted the Chinese

method of committing suicide on your enemy's doorstep." His

Lordship admitted that the British Army <sup>had neither</sup> ~~had sufficient~~ enough

tanks nor artillery for an invasion of the continent. *Apparently*

*the* British government ~~is~~ has no intention of getting into another

Dunkirk no matter <sup>how badly</sup> ~~what~~ the amateur strategists and ~~the~~ soap-box

orators and the ~~campaigns in the~~ press may shout.

NAPLES

Old Vesuvius once again brought bad luck to the ancient city of Naples. Not an eruption this time. Just a glow from the crater that made a perfect light for British air raiders. And Naples got the worst that any Italian city has had to suffer so far. For five hours R.A.F. squadrons flew over in waves, guided by the red glow from the famed volcano's crater. We don't know yet how much damage was done tho the Italian admit it was heavy.

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1941.

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:~~

~~Here's at least one piece of good news to begin with.~~

*TP*  
All the officers and crew of the torpedoed freighter LEHIGH have been saved, all forty-four of them. Twenty-two of them were landed yesterday at Bathurst, British Gambia, in West Africa, and today the United States Maritime Commission received word that twenty-two others, including five stowaways, have been set ashore at Freetown, also in British West Africa.

But that hasn't moderated the agitation, particularly in Washington. Somebody has been looking up the records and found that altogether ten American ships have been sunk since this war

*TP*  
began. Eighteen of the crew of the steamer BOLD VENTURE are still

*TP Law makers*  
missing. ~~Big shots~~ in Washington have been citing all these facts

as arguments for repealing the Neutrality Act. Presidential

secretary Steve Early, speaking for the White House, invited

Congress to repeal not only Section Six as President Roosevelt had asked, but also Section Two of the Act.

The Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations *today* began hearing witnesses opposed to repeal. The first of them, ~~was~~ former Senator Dave Read of Pennsylvania. We don't know what he told the Committee but he told newspapermen that he thought repealing the Act would be a step towards war. And he added that he wanted to see the United States at peace for many reasons, not the least of which is that if we stay out our ~~we~~ influence in a just peace will be greater.

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Senator Nye of North Dakota heard former Senator Read talking about a step toward war and he asked, "Would it be a step or a jump?"

In Germany, the Nazi press waxed even more virulent today. They ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> particularly stunned when Secretary Hull called them international highwaymen. One newspaper called President Roosevelt an international pirate, and denied that the LEHIGH and the BOLD VENTURE were sunk by German U-boats. They even doubted the torpedoing of the

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destroyers KEARNY and GREER. Said a Nazi spokesman, "Nobody to this day knows whether the incidents occurred or not."

HULL

Secretary Hull spoke out against Hitler again today — apropos the sinking of the LEHIGH. He said it was another illustration of the Nazi policy of attempting to create a reign of terror, frightfulness and absolute lawlessness on the high seas. He added that it was just a part of Hitler's program for world conquest with acts contrary to all law and in harmony with all the definitions of piracy and assassination. He adduced it as another reason why Congress should repeal not one but two sections of the Neutrality Act.

There's been a hullabaloo because a low-bid defense housing contract at Detroit was turned down in favor of a higher one. The low bidder was going to put up pre-fabricated houses which are a thorn in the side of organized labor. The Senators ~~are~~ investigating national defense today heard an explanation from Sidney Hillman, Co-Director of the Office of Production Management, *who* ~~He~~ took all the responsibility for turning down that contract which was four hundred and thirty-one thousand dollars lower than the next lowest. *H* Hillman said that he had done it in order to avoid trouble. The fabricated-houses business involved a labor issue which might bring about disturbances, ~~which would in turn have a bad effect upon the entire defense program.~~ As he put it:- "It might be putting a match to a place where there's plenty of powder and *thus* blowing up our defense program." Said Senator Brewster of Maine:- "Surely a threat of an illegal disturbance is not something you would back down on, Mr. Hillman?" Hillman replied that the record for industrial relations in the United States proves that those things have happened and he did not propose to be a party to *any* more at this time. He did not think the government owed it to the low bidder to take *such* a gamble.

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*Whereupon*

The Missouri Senator Truman, Chairman of the Committee, spoke up:-

"  
up and said if we can't let ~~to~~ <sup>this</sup> contract to the lowest bidder —

who is a union man at that," <sup>said he</sup> then I don't know what this country

is coming to. Senator Brewster of Maine then wanted to know if

this policy would lead to an American Federation of Labor

monopoly sponsored by the government in the defense construction

program. Hillman replied that on the contrary, one-third of the

contracts have been let to firms who employ labor outside of the

Federation <sup>and in a</sup> ~~in the~~ field where the <sup>A. F. of L.</sup> ~~Federation~~ is predominant.

~~Then~~ he added that out of his thirty years experience, he saw a

danger signal and obeyed it.

SUITCASE

A gentleman in Chicago was carrying <sup>a</sup> ~~his~~ suitcase <sup>in the street</sup> when an inquisitive policeman stopped him and asked him some questions. The cop was just about to say, "on your way", when to his astonishment the suitcase began to talk. The officer was shocked not so much by the fact of a chattering suitcase as by the words it uttered. Those words were: "Calling Squad Car One Q One, calling Squad Car One Q One. Go to the corner of such-and-such a street, pick up a young fellow with a suitcase who has been breaking open mail boxes."

The police claimed later that the young man had confessed. He said he carried the radio in <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ valise so it might warn him in case squad cars might interrupt him while he was rifling the mail boxes.

~~Howie that for an unusual and interesting item. To be followed by something even more interesting from Hugh.~~

WINDSORS

Streams of ticker tape flew over downtown New York today, -- just as in the glad, mad Twenties, the days of Grover Whalen and Jimmy Walker. It was an old time rip-roaring celebration, but not for an explorer or a channel swimmer this time. The charivari was ~~to greet~~ <sup>for</sup> the Duke and Duchess. ~~I should hardly have to add "the Duke and Duchess of Windsor."~~ It has been a long time since ~~that~~ <sup>so</sup> many thousands ~~of people~~ <sup>have</sup> turned out just to see a couple of ~~other~~ <sup>folks</sup> people riding through the streets in an automobile.

<sup>Today</sup> The royal pair hustled from place to place until they were almost literally run ragged. It's news when the Prince who was once acclaimed the first gentleman of Europe is actually disheveled. But that's how he was, tie crooked, hair ruffled, clothing awry, and a tired far away look in his eye. The Duchess, on the other hand, took it without turning a hair. <sup>Moreover she</sup> ~~She~~ still is explaining to the press that she isn't much interested in clothes. "Look at this dress," she said to a woman reporter. "I've had it since Nineteen Thirty-Nine."

~~There's one thing which concerns them quite closely,~~  
~~that the Duke and Duchess don't know. Right next to them is a~~

The Seraphic Secretaries of America are having a banquet at the Waldorf tonight -- not far from the royal suite, and they've been trying all day to find out if there is a royal secretary and get her to join them. A hundred of the top-notch young lady secretaries, wish the Windsor secretary would attend their party -- and bring the Duke and Duchess.

Who are the Seraphic Secretaries? Oh, Mr. Hoover's, Mr. Willkie's, Bruce Barton's, Eddie Rickenbacker's, and three from my office who are always seraphic! And maybe Hugh's secretary. Tell us something interesting about your beautiful secretary, Hugh.