

PALESTINE

L. J. Dunne - Fri, July 26, 1946

There was a wild panic in Jerusalem today,
on Jaffa Road, the Main Street of the Holy City, ~~in~~ ^{— outside the old wall,}

^{The} panic was caused by a blow-out of an automobile tire.

~~You know~~ The sharp explosive sound that a tire blow-out

can cause? — well, that started a frantic scare, as

thousands of people rushed to cover. Buildings emptied,

~~and~~ shops closed hastily all over the place, and the

police came rushing. People thought that the blow-out

was another terrorist explosion, and wild rumors spread —

rumors of another bombing by the Zionist extremists.

The panic was such that it took a whole hour to establish

the truth — ^{— the fact that it was} just an automobile tire. A small incident,

^{but} one that illustrates vividly the state of tension in

Palestine — with nervous fears of new outbreaks.

Today the British staged another round-up,
arresting more than a thousand Zionists who are suspected
of being members of Jewish underground organizations.

Great crowds were herded into concentration camps.

Meanwhile, they are still digging into the ruins of the King David Hotel, and bringing out the bodies of more victims. It is certain that all those who are still listed as missing will be found dead in the ruins, establishing the number ~~of those~~ killed at a hundred and sixteen.

In London, the British Foreign Office announces that the Anglo-American Committee on Palestine has completed its deliberations and ~~has~~ submitted recommendations to London and Washington. These recommendations are believed to include ^{the} a plan that has been reported - a scheme to partition Palestine, divide the Holy Land between Jews and Arabs on a communal basis. That is - separate Zionist areas, and Arab areas, under British control, this to be accompanied by admission of a hundred thousand Jewish immigrants recommended for Palestine.

In Washington today, President Truman was quoted as stating that he expected the hundred thousand immigrants to enter Palestine in the near future. The President said this to Senator Mead of New York, and it may tie in with the London news about the Anglo-American Committee having turned in its recommendations. However, we hear that the Jewish reaction to the plan for partition is unfavorable - Zionist leaders reacting against the scheme to divide the Holy Land into Jewish and Arab zones. The whole thing will be discussed in a formal way by the Jewish Agency next week.

The word from London is that the British government is trying urgently for a settlement in Palestine before the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations, late in September. This - to forestall Soviet Russia. The belief is that the Soviets intend to bring up the Palestine question before the

Assembly of the U.N. It's anybody's guess what line Gromyko would take on that - backing the Zionists or the Arabs. There have been indications that the Arabs might have ~~the~~ Soviet support ^{- of a kind,} But, in any case, the British don't relish the idea of Russian intervention, and would like to get ~~the~~ Palestine policy going in a workable way before the meeting of the United Nations.

Soviet Russia has issued a stern warning to the government of Austria - which is under Soviet domination. The Austrian regime, moving to the Left, has a program for nationalizing industry - which, you'd think, would fit the idea of Communism. It does, but the Soviets are interested in something else than ~~pure~~ pure Marxian theory for subjugated Austria.

TP So Moscow has warned against the proposed nationalization of important properties - like some oil fields, and a shipping organization on the Danube. The reason is - the Soviets claim these as their own - on the ground that they were German. Russia claims every^{thing} in Austria that belonged to Germany - which might mean almost anything. TP So the Red Army commander in Austria states the following to the Vienna regime: "Soviet authorities appreciate greatly the nationalization plan for Austria." To which he adds that this must not apply to anything the Soviets claim.

NUREMBERG

Some sharply descriptive and scathingly worded phrases were uttered today at Nuremberg - by Chief American Prosecutor, Supreme Court Justice Jackson.

He made the closing address for the United States in the trial of Nazi war criminals, and demanded the conviction of all twenty-two defendants, on the grounds of Nazi conspiracy and crime against the peace of the world.

He went down the list of defendants, and painted a picture of each. He began with former Nazi Number Two man, Goering, whom he called - "half militarist, half bandit, who stuck a pudgy finger in every pie."

Of von Ribbentrop, the former wine salesman who became Hitler's Foreign Minister, he said - "the salesman of ~~destruction~~^{deception} detailed to pour wine on the troubled waters of suspicion."

Then the German financial genius, Dr. Schacht - "whose facade of starched respectability provided the window-dressing for the Nazis," said Supreme Court Justice Jackson.

To Nazi philosopher Alfred Rosenberg he applied the epithets of - "blasphemous intellectual; high priest of the master race."

Of the Intriguer von Papen, Jackson said - "pious agent of an infidel regime."

And so ^{on} down the line - words of acid scorn for the arch Nazis.

O.P.A.

The revived O.P.A. began today by raising ceiling prices on some commodities, removing ceilings from others - and decreeing that previous price restrictions be restored on still other goods. For example, higher prices are authorized on coal, and more expensive shoes. There is no price restriction, of course, on meat, and several other things (exempted from price control by the bill that put the O.P.A. ~~in~~ in business again. The status of these will remain unchanged until August Twentieth, when the new three-man ^{de-} control board goes on the job and makes a decision - whether or not meat and the other commodities are to go under price control again.)

O.P.A. took charge of rents once again, and the states ^{with} ~~that have had~~ rent restrictions of their own turned their powers back to the federal agency - as in New York, where Governor Dewey had a law for rent control ready when the O.P.A. crises came about.

Such is the report in brief, on the renewed

O.P.A. - after the nation has had twenty-five days of

no price restriction at all.

... inquiry specific authority to scrutinize income tax records. Moreover, the general accounting office of the Government is going to look into the matter of Garrison profits, to check these against allegations of profiteering on war contracts. Also -- the general accounting office will take up the matter of the expense money got from the Army by high officers who attended the Garrison wedding in New York. They went to New York at the time of the party, on orders assigning them to special duty -- which were accompanied by expense allowances -- and today a general accounting official told the investigating committee that the Government wants this expense money returned. The sums are not large, but there are regulations concerning Army men who may travel on Government money when they are really on a private mission -- like going to a party.

The accounting office goes on with the case of

PROFITEERING

There's to be an investigation of the income tax of the war contract empire built by the Garsson brothers -- President Truman today giving the Senate Inquiry specific authority to scrutinize income tax records. ^{TP} Moreover, the general accounting office of the Government is going to look into the matter of Garsson profits, to check these against allegations of profiteering on war contracts. Also -- the general accounting office will take up the matter of the expense money got from the Army by high officers who attended the Garsson wedding in New York. ^{TP} They went to New York, at the time of the party, on orders assigning them to special duty -- which were accompanied by expense allowances -- and today a general accounting official told the investigating committee ~~xx~~ that the Government wants this expense money returned. The sums are not large, but there are ^{possible punishments for} ~~regulations concerning~~ Army men who ~~may~~ travel on Government money when they are really on a private mission -- like going to a party.

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Albert Jacobson, who was legal consultant of the Chemical Warfare Service. He attended the Garsson wedding and claimed travel expenses from Washington to New York - Thirty-six dollars and seventy-five cents. The financial watch-dogs, while not questioning the reason for the trip, ~~to New York~~, scrutinized the figure with an eagle eye -- if a watch-dog can have an eagle eye. And they cut the claim for travel expense by forty-seven cents. ~~And~~ Now they want to get the rest of it back -- Thirty-six dollars and twenty-eight cents.

Meanwhile, the medical report on Congressman May is that he has, not a heart attack, but what the doctor calls -- "a heart condition." The Congressman's physician appeared before the ^{mead}~~investigating~~ committee today and said that ~~Mr~~ May had had a heart condition for some time, and now, as a result of tension and excitement, was ill and will have to take a rest for ten days or two weeks. The doctor is quoted as saying that it wasn't very serious, but something to be careful about.

LYNCHING

In Georgia, there is anger and horror because of a lynching last night - the story told today. The white population is echoing the statement made by a Georgia official, who says - "this was the worst thing that ever happened in Georgia." A news dispatch from the town of Monroe calls the lynching a brutal massacre. Four negroes, two of them women, were killed by a band of white men, who cut them down with shotgun and pistol fire.

The story illustrates how mixed and sometimes paradoxical, racial relations can be in the Deep South. Roger Malcolm, a negro, worked for a white farmer, Barney Nestor, and lived in a cabin on the Nestor farm. The negro came home drunk, and began beating his wife. The white employer intervened, to save the woman - whereupon the negro stabbed him. With a wound over the heart, the farmer was in serious condition - but then rallied and is recovering.

This happened a couple of weeks ago, and yesterday the negro, now under a charge of assault, was released on bail. The man who went his bond - for six hundred dollars - was Loy Harrison, a white farmer, prosperous and reputable. Harrison did this on the plea of the negro's brother-in-law, who with his own wife worked on the Harrison farm. Moreover, he hired the negro whose release he procured, hired him as a farm worker, together with his wife - the wife whose beating by her husband had been the cause of the trouble in the first place.

The brother-in-law and ^{his} wife accompanied Harrison in his automobile to get the other two, and they were driving to the Harrison farm. They were passing through a remote section of Georgia swamp, when they were stopped by a band of from twenty to thirty men. These were bent on lynching the negro who had done the stabbing. They took him out of the car, and the other negro too -

merely because he happened to be along. The fate of the two women was sealed when one of them happened to recognize a member of the lynching party - and started to call out to him. Whereupon the two ~~men~~^{women} were taken out of the car. Harrison, the white farmer, was held at the muzzle of a shotgun, while a volley of shots rang out in what the Georgia news dispatch calls - a brutal massacre.

After this, Harrison was released, and went his way - to report the lynching and give descriptions of the men involved. He says the leader was a hulking six-footer who wore a broad black hat - a "Simon Legree hat." That phrase is used by the news dispatch relating the story of what a Georgia official calls - "the worst thing that ever happened in Georgia."

SHAW

George Bernard Shaw did not have such a Happy Birthday today - he fled. The greatest writer of English detests crowds, and thousands gathered around his isolated country home. Maybe they were singing "Happy Birthday To You", or some English version of the same. ~~This morning, a tremendous deluge of letters and telegrams descended upon him, congratulations on his Ninetieth Birthday, and wishing him many more of the same. Shaw has a critical attitude against letters and telegrams.~~ Shaw's ~~his~~ day at home was ruined, and all he could do was - escape. He got away through the crowd and fled to some hideaway in London, ~~which is being kept a secret at last reports.~~ And I suppose ^{that} about now the satirical philosopher is having nightmares, dreaming of enormous multitudes crowding around him and singing - Happy Birthday to you.

All around the literary world today, writers and

wits were telling anecdotes about that master of anecdotes. I wanted a bit of Shaw reminiscence to relate this evening -- so I went to the world of pugilism, boxing, prize fighting. I looked up former heavyweight champion, Gene Tunney, who a few years back had an interesting association with George Bernard Shaw. Gene told me how, when he won the title from Jack Dempsey, the idea came up of starring the new champ in a movie. So pretty soon Tunney found himself in conference with Hollywood big-shots. They proposed to feature Gene in a story by George Bernard Shaw -- a novel called "Cashel Byron's Profession," which is about a boxer. Tunney objected. He had read the novel, and pointed out that it consisted of much talk, and little plot, brilliant Shavian prose, and a scarcity of action.

This got to the newspapers -- the champ taking a punch at George Bernard Shaw. Which was all the funnier, because Gene Tunney at the time was in the headlines as - The Great Shakespearean.

So the query was sent to London - what has Shaw to

to say about this? The expectation was that the prize-fighter would be skinned alive by the master of satire. But Shaw was surprising -- as usual. He said - "Tunney is quite right." The author was not proud of his early novel -- immature work.

That led to an eventual meeting -- after Gene retired from the heavyweight championship. They went vacationing ^{together,} on the Italian island of Brioni. ~~Shaw was keenly interested.~~

^{Shaw and Tunney,} in prizefighting - he having done some boxing, himself, once upon a time. He told Gene about a well known poet he had known as a young man, a poet who fancied himself as a boxer. They often put on the gloves together, and Shaw related: "I had an easy time with him. He was not tall, and I had such long arms that I held him off by keeping my left glove in his face." To which Shaw added acidly: "He was annoyed, very."

The vacation stay on the island ~~of Brioni~~ provided Shaw with an anecdote that he liked to tell. It happened that ~~in~~ another vacationist at the place was Richard Strauss,

the composer of "Salome," "Electra," ~~and~~ Rosenkavalier." Shaw asked Tunney, would he like to meet Strauss? And Tunney jumped at the chance. "Presently," he relates, "we three were at a table in a quiet corner of the hotel dining room. I was over-awed," says he, "a ring-fighter sitting with the world's greatest masters of literature and music!"

Nearby was an American news photographer. He went to the hotel-keeper and complained with great annoyance. "Say," growled the photographer, "I wish you'd chase these two old guys out of there - I want to get a picture of the champ!" Shaw roared when he told that.

~~Well, that's the contribution this program has to make to the Ninetieth Birthday of the world's greatest writer of English - as George Bernard Shaw hides out somewhere in London and has nightmares of "Happy Birthday To You."~~

And now Hugh, something quiet
— or even a roar — from you.