

L.T. SUNOCO. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The secret of the Squalus is known tonight, probably as much as it will ever be known: What caused the ill-fated submarine to sink on its practice dive? This afternoon the Naval Court of Inquiry, consisting of three experts, inspected the Squalus in the drydock where it now reposes. They scrutinized everything; deliberated; and made their report. Today's latest news. Their finding is this:

That the sinking of the Squalus was probably caused by a faulty lock on the main induction valve. That's the valve which takes in water for submergence. The survivors indicated that the Squalus had plunged to the bottom because the main induction valve didn't work right. Today's investigation confirms this and places the particular blame on a faulty lock. The valve closed but failed to lock. That's the mystery of the squalus -- solved now.

They deprived the Squalus of its dead today -- the men who perished -- a grim and mournful task. And -- there was an element of strange surprise. They sought for twenty-six bodies, the twenty-six men who perished. But, they found only twenty-five. Where is the other? Perhaps washed out of the submarine through the open induction valve? That's the mystery tonight.



## COSTS

Washington tells us that the direct cost of the European War to the people of the United States already amounts to a hundred and twelve million dollars. This is the sum to be spent on the Army and Navy -- in accordance with the President's limited states of emergency proclamation, the United States land and sea forces to be increased. They are being increased only because there's war in Europe, which therefore is directly responsible for the hundred and twelve million dollars the United States government is shelling out.

However, there are facts to compensate for this. The economic upswing the war has brought.

WAR

You may be relieved to know that the war news is brief today. Military affairs in Poland center around two cities, strategic points. One, Brest-Litovsk, which was so famous in World War days -- a mighty Russian fortress which Hindenburg and Ludendorf besieged and captured in their tremendous drive that defeated the armies of the Czar. Later the fortress of Brest-Litovsk was the scene of the peace negotiations of the Germans commanders and the Russian Bolshevik leader, Lenin and Trotsky. The drastic treaty of Brest-Litovsk, dictated by the Germans, took Russia out of the World War.

Today, swift striking columns of Hitler's mechanized army struck all the way to Brest-Litovsk, and they report capturing some of the outer fortifications.

The fortress is far in the rear of the line the Polish army has been holding. That would mean the Polish army is completely flanked -- if it is still there.) The Poles, to avoid being completely encircled, must retreat rapidly to the east -- into the Pripet marshes, those vast swamplands of eastern Poland. Brest-Litovsk lies on the edge of the Pripet marshes.



The other city is the one with the name that looks so curious -- L-w-o-w, pronounced Lvof, or something like that. Otherwise known as Lemberg. It's in South Poland, capital of the Polish Ukraine, on the road to Roumania. Apparently the Germans have it surrounded and are assaulting Lemberg with all the fury of war -- the city blasted by sky bombs. The Germans have cut the main line on the Polish road to Roumania, the way of retreat to the south.

The Polish government has fled to a little town on the Roumanian frontier, and the Poles are complaining -- why haven't their western allies done more to help them?

On the Western Front, things are about the same, the Allies pushing slowly on, inching their way. Paris announces the capture of a small bit of territory with the French army moving close to the German Siegfried Line. Also the crushing of a German counter attack.

## ~~the~~ Weather-war

Yesterday's paradox about the weather on the war front continues. It is still raining in Poland, where the rainy season of autumn has been expected to slow up the German lightning drives. However, one dispatch ~~from Poland~~ tells us that it would take at least two weeks of drenching rain to turn the Polish flatland into a muddy bog - the great plains have been so baked and parched by a dry and hot summer. It's in France where the downpour from the sky is impeding military operations <sup>the most - -</sup> - the same military weather report as yesterday *there*.

(The rainy season in Poland and its probable effects on Hitler's campaign have been widely discussed. The annual Polish rains in the autumn have become a standard element in war news prognostications. And here's something strange - of which seems like another example <sup>^</sup> how completely false war news can be, fables and myths. The NEW YORK TIMES did a bit of checking along very simple lines - is there <sup>really</sup> any Polish rainy season in the fall? Somebody thought of the elementary idea of looking up the Polish weather reports. And here's the result. Poland has had weather reports for a hundred years, ) and for that period we have



the following :- For the month of July the average rainfall has been a little more than three inches. For September the figure is one and eighty-five one-hundredths inches. No deluge that! For October -- one and sixty-five one-hundredths inches. Still less. Thus, the average Polish weather shows twice as much rain in mid-summer as in the autumn. (The figures indicate that normally there's a steady decline of rain from July to the end of October. So maybe that autumn rainy season is nothing but a myth and a fable -- someone's wishful thinking.) And just think how much prognostication has been based on a thing the mere weather reports show to be non-existent.

Huh! Once more we can be skeptical about the present war news!

JEWS

In Bucharest there's a report that the London government is going to say something to Roumania in behalf of Jewish refugees from Poland. The plight of the Jewish people in the invaded country is perhaps the cruel~~e~~st of all the present-day woes of Israel. Poland, with a large orthodox Jewish minority, has had a decidedly anti-Semitic policy. And now Hitler's Nazis are coming, and tens of thousands of Jews are fleeing, fugitives from the most bitter anti-Semites of all.

In southern Poland, their line of retreat is into Roumania, but Roumania also has its anti-Semitism. Five per cent of the population of King Carol's country is Jewish, and the Roumanian government wants to reduce it - by ~~i~~mmigration. So the Roumanian border authorities won't admit the Polish Jewish fugitives fleeing from the cohorts of Hitler - on the ground that they will probably stay in Roumania and increase the Jewish minority there. Many are on the border now, and many more approaching - ~~two~~ <sup>5 and thousands</sup> thousand ~~in all~~ it is estimated. The British government wants Roumania to admit these refugees, and the Bucharest dispatch states that this probably can be arranged - if.



That "if" has as painful a sound as the rest of it. Roumania will take in the refugees if Great Britain will guarantee that they will eventually be sent to Palestine. When we remember the Arabs of Palestine, and the British White Paper which abolishes Jewish immigration to the Holy Land - we realize how much this new refugee problem adds to the woe of Israel.

ITALY

The decision of Italy is so significant that everybody continues to wonder about it. So even hints and rumors are interesting when they bear on the question - "Will Mussolini stay neutral, or what?" Here's a piece of diplomatic gossip from London. It states that Germany recently offered a non-aggression pact to Turkey, and in making the offer Hitler's ambassador informed the Angora government that Turkey could get a guarantee of neutrality from Mussolini - a guarantee that Italy ~~will~~ will remain neutral in the war. If this is true, it would be a tip that Hitler does not expect his old ally, Mussolini, the Duce, to join the fight either soon or late.



## ANTI-SUBMARINE

The British Admiralty today made a report on a subject that's pretty much of a secret, the British and French campaign against the German U-boats. The submarines have been sinking British merchant ships, a few a day, adding up a fairly long list. We know that anti-submarine patrols are scouring the seas, searching for U-boats, attacking them. But there has been little or no word about the results achieved. Today the London Admiralty comes forward with a report, although it's not so very revealing. It says briefly:- "Many attacks have been made and a number of U-boats have been destroyed." It doesn't say how many, just "a number", and it adds: "Survivors have been rescued and captured when possible."

It's no surprise that a dark secrecy surrounds the anti-submarine campaign. Secrecy was part of the British fight against the U-boats during the World War. It <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ reasoned that by not publishing lists of submarines destroyed, keep it <sup>all</sup> in the dark - they'd strike a blow at the morale ~~of~~ of the German U-boat crews. These would know nothing save that one undersea raider after another would fail to return. ~~the~~ mystery - a strain for the nerves of men whose nerves are already strained by the terrors of war below the water.

VAN DYKE

In Philadelphia this afternoon they buried John Wesley Van Dyke who until his death last Wednesday had been for many years Chairman of the Atlantic Refining Company. Since the death of his life-long friend, John D. Rockefeller, John Wesley van Dyke had been honored as the patriarch of the oil industry. Ninety years old! And more than seventy years of that long life spent in the oil industry.

He was only nine when the world's first oil well was drilled at Titusville, Pennsylvania, and eight years later he went to work in the oil fields as pumper and driller. From then until the day before his death, when he signed checks in connection with his company's business, he was always on the job. A business career that almost spans the period of the oil industry's life.

A typically American career. A poor boy becomes head of one of the largest business organizations in the world. Credited with inventing an impressive list of useful and valuable facilities in his industry. Accumulating a large fortune, and using it to help his fellow man.



LOUISIANA

Prison sentences were handed out in Louisiana today - in the case of the big corruption scandal that has shaken political affairs of the state. Three men heard the judge speak the word. One was Seymour Weiss, so long a ~~great~~ political power in Louisiana, a top man in the once all-powerful machine built by the Kingfish, Huey Long. Another, Dr. James Monroe Smith, former President of the Louisiana State University - ~~he was~~ accused of embezzling University funds. Top sentences were imposed on these two men who once were so prominent. Each gets two and a half years in prison and is fined two thousand dollars. Other sentences were imposed on defendants not so well known.

## PRISON

Tonight we have an explanation of last night's weird prison-break story. After an investigation at the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet today, it was found that the escape plot was as follows:- Three desperado prisoners made a narcotic poison from some kind of weed which grew in the prison yard. By connivance in the prison kitchen apparently, they contrived to have this dope slipped into the coffee which was taken as part of lunch to the guards in the various watch towers on the prison wall. The guards who drank the coffee droused off into a heavy drugged sleep - all save one. This particular guard didn't care for coffee, and he gave his <sup>cup</sup> ~~coffee~~ to the trustie who brought lunch to him. The trustie took ~~the~~ ~~entire~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~cup of coffee~~ away, ~~and~~ drank it, and he went to sleep.

The three escapers, thinking that all the guards on the wall had been knocked out, started climbing over ~~the wall~~ with <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ ladder they had made. The one guard who hadn't drunk the coffee saw them. They were out of ~~the~~ range for a shot with his rifle, and all he could do was shout an alarm. That was enough, and the escapers were captured. The prison authorities are now trying to find out what other convicts, if any, were in ~~the prison-break~~ plot.



DRIVER

We always figured this next thing would happen. A man running amuck with a huge truck, or bus. Mad, but playful.

For years Jack Williams of Westmoreland, California, nourished a grudge -- a deep and bitter grudge against those ponderous trucks that go barging along the highway. Times innumerable, when Jack was driving along the family bus, down would come one of those rushing juggernauts, never <sup>in</sup> serving, forcing Jack to swing over toward the ditch, and scaring the wits out of him.

Today, Jack Williams strolled up to a bus terminal, and there stood a thirty-five thousand dollar, two-decker, ten ton bus. The driver was in a lunch room having coffee. So Jack jumped into the bus and away he went! He picked the highway through Imperial Valley. That's a stretch of road which teems with trucks carrying farm produce, the same trucks that had been harrowing the soul of Jack Williams. He let out along a fifty mile straightaway at seventy-five miles an hour, the monster bus streaking along at a tremendous gait. Did he swerve for the trucks he met? Not an inch. One after another they went lumbering hastily to the edge of the road. He ran a score of them

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almost off the highway. One truck tried to give him an argument, didn't go over so far. Jack side-swiped it and sent it rolling ~~over~~ into the ditch.

Meanwhile, the police were in a frantic state.

A highway patrol car gave chase but couldn't get past the seventy mile an hour bus. In one town the cops put up a barricade of lights. Jack slammed right through it ~~and there~~ <sup>amid</sup> a shower of lights.

Finally, ~~the~~ police had to shoot him down. They opened fire and clipped him in the wrist. Then he stopped.

<sup>sorts of hootch;</sup>  
Jack admitted he had had a couple of ~~drinks~~ <sup>drinks</sup> moreover, he had taken some sort of drug for a toothache. But it was mostly his grudge against the trucks.

In jail tonight he explained:- "It was just an impulse. I wanted to get back some of that <sup>right-of-way</sup> ~~rightaway~~ I've been giving up ~~to trucks for~~ all these years." <sup>s-l-u-</sup>

Monday