

BATTLE

C.I. - Sunoco Tuesday, April 9, 1940.

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The ~~the~~ <sup>startling</sup> report tonight tells of a huge ~~the~~ latest ~~reports tell of~~ sea and sky battle raging off the coast of Norway. The Allies today promised Norway instant help against the Nazi German invasion, and soon there were London reports that British naval units were in action.

TP <sup>sends late word of</sup> Stockholm ~~reported~~ a great sea battle ~~is under way~~ off the Norwegian coast. The British Broadcasting Company made an announcement in these words:- "A major battle is going on near the coast of Norway," said B.B.C., and it added:- "and the ~~silence~~ may be broken within the next few hours."

Berlin chimes in with the <sup>claim</sup> ~~report~~ of a victory. It describes Nazi <sup>air</sup> bombers battling with British warships, off the coast near Bergen, and states that German bombs scored direct hits on two battleships and two heavy cruisers. The claim is made in these words:- "Two enemy battleships were directly hit

by three heavy bombs each, and were badly damaged," say the Nazis, <sup>and</sup>

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<sup>they</sup> ~~and~~ add:- "Two heavy cruisers were badly damaged by direct hits."

Then the Berlin report <sup>continues with</sup> ~~adds~~ these details:- "One of the enemy

ships lies with a heavy list and another is afalme." <sup>so</sup> ~~say~~ <sup>claims</sup> the Germans. And they add:-

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~~And it adds~~ "Large oil patches cover the sea."

On the Allied side - the German liner <sup>/</sup>AMASIS was torpedoed by a British submarine. The ship was on its way to ~~captured~~ Oslo, taking part in the military operations. And there's an insistent report that the big German warship, the GNEISENAU, has been sunk - ~~just how the reports do not make clear. Perhaps by Norwegian,~~  
*in the battle that*  
~~defense guns, or maybe in the naval battle. This~~ is said to be raging in a violent storm.

And here's a late one unconfirmed - a rumor that the famous Bremen, now a troop ship, has been sunk.

## INVASION

Here's the latest about the invading forces in Norway.

We have no report from the Norwegian Government. The communique

comes from Berlin. [The German high command claims complete success

in the day's operations. The bulletin reads:- "By the end of

today," it says, "the militarily important points in Norway

were in German hands - including particularly Narvik, Trendheim,

Bergen, Stavanger, ~~K~~ristiansand and Oslo, which are occupied by

strong forces, *end quote.* This list of places captured includes • just about

all the important points on the long coast of Norway, from the

Skagerrak to the Arctic Circle. The German communique indicates

that at least in some places the Norwegians put up quite a fight.

It states:- "Resistance, which was especially strong in Oslo,

was broken." And it goes on to declare that as the day ended,

strong German forces were marching inland at various points -

in the drive to occupy the whole ~~country~~ *nation.* In describing the march

of occupation, the German high command uses these words:- "Without

any resistance from the enemy."

A Stockholm dispatch declares that the Norwegian

army has taken up a defensive line running northward from Oslo

on the coast to Hamar, which is some distance in the interior.

There, the Norse regiments are said to be digging in for a fight.

Stockholm reports that the Norwegians believe they can hold out until they can complete their mobilization. However, the amount

of fighting that Norway could make seems doubtful. The ~~country~~

~~has a standing army of only fifteen thousand men, and a population~~

~~of less than three million.~~ *less than Finland* Certainly the ~~maximum~~ of reserves can't

~~amount to more than a couple hundred thousand or so - and it's~~

~~highly doubtful whether the Allies will even try to land troops~~

~~to join the ~~Norwegian~~ Norwegian army.~~

NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT

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*Further*  
Berlin reports that a new Norwegian Government has

been set up at Oslo, protected by German bayonets. ~~Apprent~~

A puppet government sponsored by the invaders. ~~Is~~ Headed by the

Norwegian Fascist leader, Quisling. His Fascist group, which

never counted for much in Norwegian affairs, is called - the

Anti-Communistic National Union Party. "Anti-Communistic! - ~~is~~

sounds ironical; but it should interest Hitler's partner, Stalin.

When the Soviet<sup>s</sup> invaded Finland they set up a puppet Red regime,

which, however, vanished from the scene. Now Hitler sets up a

puppet anti-~~Communist~~ *- Red regime* government, to rule Norway! It shows how

much ideas<sup>l</sup> and ideology count with the Communists and Nazis.

Meanwhile, Berlin has sent a demand to Sweden -

requiring that Stockholm observe strict neutrality. The Swedes

are said to be replying - ~~yes~~, Sweden ~~is~~ staying strictly neutral.



## ROUND-UP

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Let's make a quick survey of the dominating events of this day of history. It's a good time to make it - this particular hour. Ever since the wild outbreak of turmoil in Europe, I've had occasion to notice how well our broadcast time on this program was adapted to a round-up of the European news. Six forty-five to seven over here - approaching midnight over there. The Number One events of the day have nearly always occurred, have been recorded, have been put on the wire. The news correspondents have gathered their stories and sent them along, and these have been put on the press wires over here. So this hour is ideal for a broadcast round-up of the European news.

Last night, for example, we had the fateful tidings that led to the still greater events of today. The central theme was - those British mine fields, explosive barriers which the British Navy laid at several places in Norwegian territorial waters - to block off Nazi ore ships navigating close to the coast of Norway. We heard about the protest the Norwegian Government was making to London - strong and angry complaint. Norway standing up against Britain! - How swiftly all that changed! We had reports about German

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warships swarming in the Skagerrak, off Scandinavian shores, with the British striking boldly into the ~~Skagger~~ Skagerrak, submaring Nazi vessels - one a troopship, it was said.

These were vivid and exciting signs that something big was *about to* break - we couldn't tell what. We couldn't tell that the bold British mine field stroke was swiftly to be followed by a still heavier blow launched by Nazi Germany. Such was the state of affairs, as we had a round-up of the European news this time last night.

Let's see what happened thereafter. At ten thirty P.M. our time, half past three in the morning, Norwegian time - Hitler's Minister to Oslo presented an ultimatum to the Norwegian Government, demanding that Norway submit to Germany. <sup>*Accept*</sup> German protection against the Allies - it was called. Norway refused, said she would resist invasion.

At about midnight our time, five A.M. over there, the break of day - the armed forces of Nazi Germany launched their attack. They did ~~it~~ it with amazing swiftness. They invaded Denmark

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by land and from the sea. The attitude of the Danes is well expressed in a sidelight from United Press Correspondent Edward Beattie. He quotes a high Danish official as telling him the following a couple of months ago:- "Whenever the Reich wants to occupy us," said the high Danish official, "it can do so by long distance telephone."

That's just about what happened today. The Government of Denmark submitted - under protest. It couldn't do anything else.

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Still, even with no resistance, the speed of the German occupation was ~~a~~ amazing. Here's a detail to illustrate. In London the foreign office announced today that the Germans captured the British Minister to Copenhagen and his entire staff. The Nazi expeditionary force seizing the Danish capital came in so quickly that the British diplomatic representatives had no time to get away *even by plane.*

Simultaneously - the Germans were invading Norway, landing at a ~~N~~ number of points along the Norwegian coast. The Oslo Government declared war, ordered resistance, and then abandoned the capital - moving inland to the City of Hamar. There was ~~some~~



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resistance - principally at Oslo. There were reports that Nazi warplanes had bombed the capital. Later word seems to indicate they struck at the airfield outside ~~of~~ the city. Word flashed of sky fights over Oslo, with <sup>German</sup> planes shot down. Norwegian aircraft in battle - and British war planes too. That was the report.

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Norwegian coast defense cannon fought with Hitler warships, and there's a report that they sank one <sup>or more.</sup> ~~the big warship GNEISENAU~~. Later in the day, a badly damaged German destroyer steamed into Oslo harbor - it had been hit by Norwegian guns. <sup>But</sup> Oslo was soon captured, with Nazi troops marching through the ~~town~~ city.

Meanwhile, otherseaports were being seized. Kristiansand, where there was fighting. Hitler warplanes bombed ~~that~~ city, which is at the southern tip of Norway. Other places were taken ~~easily~~, like the important port of Bergen - just across the North Sea from northern Scotland; also Trondheim and Narvik.

These latter places are far to the north and their capture was surprising indeed. <sup>R</sup> In the House of Commons today, Prime Minister

Chamberlain ~~mentioned~~ <sup>mentioning</sup> reports that Trondheim had been

<sup>but</sup> occupied; <sup>^</sup> said he doubted it. He pointed out that Trondheim was

almost seven hundred miles from the nearest German harbor, and added that a Nazi expeditionary force could not have got <sup>ten</sup> there in so short a time. Chamberlain was partly right. Trondheim was not captured by any Nazi expeditionary force - nor was Narvik, the harbor so important for the shipment of Scandinavian iron ore to Germany. Those two places were seized in <sup>much more</sup> astonishing fashion.

At Trondheim and at Narvik a number of German merchant ships were lying in harbor. When the invasion began, they got their orders, and their crews seized the two cities. According to the stories we <sup>get</sup> ~~got~~, the crews were German navy men, who promptly put on naval uniforms, and landed as invading units. So today those Nazi merchant ~~ships~~ ship tactics are being compared to the far famed wooden horse of Troy. This Trojan horse business is a telling indication of how carefully and cleverly the Germans prepared the seizure of Norway.

~~No doubt the immediate occasion for it was the affair of the British mine field, but every sign indicates that the Hitler armed forces had made ready for the invasion long before, had made ready to the last detail. That's how they unleashed another blitzkrieg today, with bewildering swiftness.~~

## RESULTS

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The one large question tonight is -- "What will it all lead to?" What will be the effect of the Nazi seizure of Norway-- assuming that it continues to go through according to schedule? One point is this -- it extends the war. Germany hitherto has pursued a policy of restricting the conflict -- keep it from spreading. During the war in Finland, the idea that Berlin kept expressing was -- don't let the struggle extend to the Scandinavian area. At the same time, it seemed to be the policy of the Allies to establish a new Northern Front against Germany. But now -- things happen the other way around. It's a topsy-turvy war. Today Hitler with one blow, sweeps the war northward through Scandinavia to the Arctic Coast. <sup>And</sup> Nazi Germany ~~next~~ creates the much talked of Northern Front.

Whom will it benefit? London quickly points out that the extension of the war ~~farther~~ to the north will be a new drain on Germany's supplies -- having to provision <sup>and</sup> ammunition, armed units for such a distance. It will use up a lot of Nazi material -- including oil. And the hope of the Allies is to exhaust German supplies -- <sup>by</sup> ~~not~~ the strangling blockade. So one phase of London

opinion tonight is -- that Hitler has made a blunder.

On the other hand, the Germans will swiftly establish sea and air bases all along the Norwegian and Danish coasts, all along the Eastern shore of the North Sea. An act <sup>that should</sup> immensely increase their North Sea sky power, should reinforce <sup>their</sup> ability to <sup>strike</sup> ~~to fight~~ through the air against Britain. For example, it would <sup>halve</sup> ~~half~~ the distance to Scapa Flow which the German air forces <sup>have</sup> already <sup>almost</sup> made too hot to hold.

~~(Then Britain has been depending upon Denmark and Norway for a certain amount of foodstuffs especially fats bacon. Now <sup>Also Scandinavian metals</sup> these will be cut off, and Germany will get them. On All these~~

are factors in trying to answer the question -- Whom will it benefit?

<sup>yes, and</sup> It may benefit Stalin; -- that's a late angle today. One speedy rumor is that the Soviets may take advantage of the German invasion of Norway -- and seize some of the northern Norwegian areas. A late flash from Stockholm states that Moscow today <sup>new</sup> made demands -- on Finland. The poor Finns seem to be right in the middle. Stalin is said to be <sup>exact</sup> ~~transacting~~ new concessions -- large <sup>by</sup> economic. Also --

the immediate construction of a railway to the Swedish frontier.

And that points to a possible Soviet move in <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ direction ~~of~~ the  
Scandinavian Peninsula. — Sweden, and Norway.



BALKANS

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The word <sup>is</sup> <sup>also</sup> widespread that Germany is demanding the right to patrol the Danube all the way from Austria to the Black Sea. From Austria the Danube flows through Hungary, Roumania, Bulgaria and Jugoslavia. And Berlin representations are said to have been made to those countries. Roumania issues a denial and says it knows nothing about the idea of a Nazi patrol of the Danube. But the rumor is insistent.

This follows yesterday's story of a British attempt to block the Danube by an explosion of barges of dynamite at the narrow pass called the Iron Gate. ~~The tale is completely denied,~~ but the Nazis are said to be using it as a pretext. They demand the right to keep the Danube open for river ~~traffic~~ transport of supplies into Germany. <sup>The Reich</sup> ~~Germany~~ more and more hopes to use the Danube as an eastern back door for beating the British blockade in the west - a back door for the transport of Balkan and Soviet Russian supplies.

~~On the British side, London is talking about ways to close the Danube to the Germans - extending the blockade that far.~~

So, that river of walzes and the famous beautiful blue - looks like the line along which the war may spread to the Balkan area.

## ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt today made a statement about the Nazi seizure of Norway. The President may not be quoted directly, not word for word. So the statement is paraphrased, paraphrased by the United Press as follows:- "Mr. Roosevelt said that events of the past forty-eight hours undoubtedly will cause a great many more Americans to think about the potentialities of this war in relation to the United States." Having spoken to that effect, the President warned the newspaper men not to seek in his words any more meaning than the obvious meaning - about Americans thinking.

He gave every indication of how ~~extraordinary~~ grave he considered the new turn of events in the war. He was asked about a local domestic political matter - whether he had received any reports about the voting in today's presidential primaries in Illinois and Nebraska. *No reports from there are in as yet.* Ordinarily, eyes would be focused on those primaries which have such definite meanings for a possible third term on one hand and for the prospects of Dewey on the other. President Roosevelt replied that sometimes things like primaries and politics are eclipsed by events such as happened in Europe today - events with so many potentialities for the United States.

One thing is definite - Washington is going to revise the neutrality proclamations and extend the war zones to include the Scandinavian countries. *This was stated by the President.* With the Nazis taking the war all the way to the Arctic Circle, American vessels will be forbidden to traffic in those northern areas, which have now been turned into war zones.

*And now minutes are up for telling about this day of history.*