

CRASH

L. J. Shureco v P. v. S.

Thurs., May 29, 1947.

A four-engine plane, with forty-four passengers and a crew of four crashed at LaGuardia field tonight - in a storm. Nine including the pilot, ~~survived~~ ^{were} thrown clear or dragged from the wreckage.

The plane ~~was~~ bound for Cleveland, was held up by a thunderstorm. Then shortly after eight the pilot nosed the big ship down the runway and took off. About fifty feet off the ground, when the landing gear was being drawn up, the plane suddenly wavered, and plunged ~~and~~ almost on top of an aeronautical academy near the end of the runway.

Students rushed out in time to pull seven passengers from the wreckage. The pilot and co-pilot were thrown clear. The students had only three seconds before the plane exploded.

Pilot Arthur Baldwin, in critical condition, could only say: "The plane nosed down and then burst into flames".

The latest: - 38 dead.

COMINTERN

Today brings an answer to a question often asked - what's happened to the Comintern? A little more than four years ago, the wartime year of 1943, that Communist *I*nternational was dissolved. Stalin was desperately in need of help and, as a gesture toward the Western Allies, the Soviet Government abolished the organization for inciting world revolution.

The dissolution of the Comintern was signed by its own executive committee in Moscow, a Committee of fourteen. What has happened to them? Where are they now? What are they doing? In the case of eight of the fourteen, the answer is as follows - as given by Harrison Salisbury, Foreign News Editor of the United Press:-

The Secretary General was the Bulgarian, Dimitrov. Today he is the Premier of Bulgaria, head of the Communist-dominated Government of that ~~Russk~~ Balkan country. Committee member Gottwald is Premier

of Czechoslovakia. Another, Rakossi, is vice-Premier of Hungary and Secretary General of the Hungarian Communist Party.

Wilhelm Pieck, who was on the Comintern Committee, is head of the German Communist Party, and presumably would be the Red Boss of Germany -- if it weren't for the Occupation Forces of the Western Allies. The same sort of thing goes for Comintern Member Koplenig, who is now chief of the Austrian Communist Party.

In Italy one of the top ranking politicians is Togliatti, leader of the ~~Itt~~ Italian Communist Party, who until recently was a Government Minister. He used to be known by the Pseudonym of Ercoli, and under that name was on the Executive Committee of the Comintern. So was Thorez, now the number one ~~frs~~ French Communist and Vice Premier of France until the recent cabinet shake-up. And, Marty - now third ranking leader in the French Communist Party.

ARMY EQUIPMENT

Here's encouragement for many of us who are all in favor of the army - and especially the Air Forces - keeping up-to-date. Modern and more modern. Some of us have had the apprehension that the Army - and especially the Air Forces - might slide back into obsolete equipment, failing to keep pace with the swift advancement of science. So this will sound good:- Chief of Staff General Eisenhower has ordered Army Research to concentrate on producing new and radical improved equipment rather than wasting time on minor improvements of existing weapons.

General Ike has sent a circular to all the Army Commands connected with research and development, a circular saying, in effect: - get busy with the latest revolutionary changes in technology, and forget any tinkering around with the types of armament we already have - stuff that may be obsolete by now.

Let's not forget the veterans in our hospitals throughout the land tomorrow -- or any other day.

GREENLAND

The question of Greenland comes up - the status of American power in that vast and strategic isle of the North. We've been in Greenland under a wartime agreement with Denmark, whereby the United ~~St~~ States undertook the defense of Greenland to keep it from falling into Nazi German control; - and now Denmark has made moves to modify that agreement, or bring it to an end. ^R This was disclosed by Secretary of State Marshall at a news conference today - he declaring that our government is ready at any time to negotiate a new agreement. But the Secretary of State indicated clearly that this country intends to retain at least a foothold on ~~the~~ ^t vast island of ice, to make sure ~~that~~ it is not used as a springboard for aggression against the Western ~~World~~ Hemisphere.

LEAD

A strange thing occurred in August of last year, over in conquered Germany. Along a road rumbled a truck, passing from the Russian Zone into the American. In the truck were bales of Communist propaganda, being transported from the Soviet to the American side.

That particular truck got through all right - nothing happened. But a second truck was stopped - also loaded with Communist propaganda. German Security Police were suspicious. They dug down into the Communist propaganda, reams of Marxist argument and anti-capitalistic tirades. - And what did they find? Under the Red literature was a hoard of gleaming jewels, a treasure of gold and gems.

The German Security Police immediately notified American Intelligence Officers, and a search was made for the previous truckload of Red literature. This was found, and there too was hidden a glowing wealth of jewelry. ~~The~~ Treasure in the two trucks was worth over a million dollars, ^{possibly} ~~possibly~~ as high as six million.

That story of nearly a year ago was disclosed only today. Over in Germany, United Press Correspondent Menno Duerksen got ~~xxx~~ on to the tale of treasure, and learned the facts, but the American Military authorities would not permit the news to be made public - not until now. The smuggling of treasure from the Soviet to the American Zone came under the heading of international complications. The U.S. Army has the hoard of gold and jewels in its possession - but its a tricky sort of thing, all involved at high leavels of diplomacy.

Its another case of German Royal family heirlooms - akin to the theft of the crown jewels of Hesse, which made so much stir months ago. This time the family involved is that of Saxe-Weimar, which reigned as petty German Royalty in ~~the~~ times past. As in the affair of the Crown Jewels of Hesse, it was a case of German Princlings trying to save their ancestral treasure by hiding it. **B**ut the Saxe-Weimar story includes ~~the~~ elements of smuggling, and the Soviets.

When Germany collapsed, the Grand Duchess Theodora of Saxe-Weimar was at her family estates in Silesia, territory the Red Army was invading. To escape the Russians, she fled west - and took along ~~her~~ her treasure of heirlooms. She went to family estates in Thuringia, and there buried the treasure. American Troops came in, but, they never suspected. Later the Russians took over and now the buried treasure was in the Russian Zone. The Soviets have a way of confiscating things, and would have made an eager grab at the ancestral wealth of the ~~royal~~ royal clan of ~~Saxe-Weimar~~ Saxe-Weimar. But they didn't find the hidden wealth.

Last August, the Grand Duchess Theodora heard of a young German smuggler who operated between the Soviet and American Zones, and who had been quite successful. He had been a soldier in the German Army, and now lived near the boundary of the two zones - on the American side. In American-controlled territory he talked loudly about the Russian barbarians, the accursed Reds. On the Soviet side he was a hot

Communist, eager to spread Red propaganda, and smuggle Communist literature into the American Zone. He smuggled other things as well.

The Duchess got in touch with him, and they made a deal. The young ~~xxx~~ smuggler, if he was able to get the Saxe-Weimar jewels across into the American Zone, would be paid two per cent of their value in cash and another five per cent in jewels - quite a price. The Grand Duchess told him of the hiding place of the jewels, and thus it was that the two truck ~~loads~~ loads of Red literature passed across the border - only to be detected, the hoard of treasure found and seized. ~~xxx~~

~~As the affair now stands, it's in an ambiguous state. The Dutchess Theodora has communicated with the American Military authorities - they ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx~~ replying with a statement of the facts. This she regards as an official American acknowledgement of her ownership of the treasure. But she has thus far taken no action to reclaim it - afraid that, if the question is pressed, the Soviets will demand the return of the~~

LYNCH

Down in North Carolina, some newsmen today were steering clear of the town of Rich Square. They were told that if they didn't keep away they might get killed.

Rich Square, North Carolina, is the town where last week they had an attempted lynching. The negro, accused of attacking a white woman, was able to break away from the mob and escape. He later surrendered to the authorities. Since then, the F.B.I. has intervened, and has procured a confession from one member of the lynch mob - identifying six others.

You'd think ~~that~~ that law-abiding citizens would approve of all of this. But Rich Square, North Carolina, displays a southern resentment against interference by outsiders. Today's News dispatch quotes people as saying - "The F.B.I. didn't have any business coming down here and sticking their noses in it." The member of the mob who made the confession is the Manager of Rich Square's only theatre - and he has skipped town, to avoid the anger of the ~~citizens~~ citizens.

~~The~~ ^{were} ~~had been~~ ¹ newsmen, some of them from the North,
assigned to cover the story at Rich Square;
but today they were told they'd better stay away. An
official gave them a blunt warning - ~~ones~~ "You might
be killed."

CAMPBELL

At Lake Coniston over in England, Sir Malcolm Campbell, sixty-one year old British speed king is all set to break more records -- this time with the first jet-propelled racing boat in history.

He says he doesn't know what'll happen to him - and the boat - when he really opens her up. Anyhow he intends to break his own speed boat record of a hundred and forty-miles an hour. Sir Malcolm also holds the world's auto record, three-hundred-and-one miles an hour, at Daytona Beach back in Nineteen thirty five.

His new Blue Bird is described as "skipper shaped". Meaning two side pontoons. Powered by a DeHaviland jet engine - and an engine so powerful that some aviation engineers ~~xxx~~ predict that the boat ~~xxxx~~ will take off and then flip over.

He warmed her up today, for the first time. She gets away with an unearthly shriek. And Sir Malcolm wore special sound deadeners in his helmet.

SEA MONSTER

They had a scare in Tokyo - on the order of that Orson Welles Man-from-Mars hullabaloo in this country a few years back. The trouble was the same thing - too much realism in a broadcast, with radio listeners thinking that a fiction of fancy was the real thing.

The alarm in Japan was about a battle between American soldiers and a sea monster in the streets of Tokyo. That thriller was dreamed up by a couple of American soldier radio writers, who introduced a weird and scary nightmare - a program describing a twenty foot sea monster invading Tokyo, and threatening to devour all that came its way - while intrepid G.I.'s closed in with the horrific leviathan in a battle to the death.

The result was a pandemonium of telephone calls - to the Tokyo radio station and to the Army. People thought the weird hair-raiser was true, and were jittery, frightened, some scared out of their wits. At the end of the program the statement was made that the

whole thing was a joke, but most people missed that clarifying statement - and there was near panic.

You may be tempted to pass it all off by saying, "Well, the Japs had a scare." But ~~xx~~ that wasn't the case. The broadcast about the battle of the sea monster was in English, and all the telephone calls came from American or British residents of Tokyo. One excited G.I. phoned in - as an eye-witness. He declared that he himself had seen the 'sea monster. He described it as a horrifying creature, and said it was, in his words - "Grinning in an oily and slimy manner."

A commander of the British Occupation Troops phoned and offered help - saying that his Tommies were demanding rifles and grenades ~~xx~~ so that they could dash out and help the Americans in their battle with the sea serpent.

But the climax is this: A member of the staff of the radio station declared that one of those who called in asking about the sea monster was General MacArthur. And if you^{are} able to kid MacArthur - ~~that's~~
it must be some joke.

As for the Japs, most of them couldn't have understood the blood and thunder program if they had heard it -- though some Japanese, of course, know a bit of English and ~~ad~~ understand. If so, they didn't show any sign -- they didn't show any sign -- they didn't bother. Maybe the Japs figured that a battle between G.I.'s and the sea monster in Tokyo was strictly an American affair -- so let the Americans worry. Let MCarthur worry -- as apparently he did.

And now Nelson, I'll let you worry --- or maybe you'll tell us how to avoid worry.

NEW YORK

New York is having a waterfront scandal, and today a Grand Jury returned three indictments. These involved an ousted city official, a waterfront gentleman known as the "King of the Stevedores", and a one-time booklet operator of prohibition days.

For a couple of weeks the Big Town has been ringing with charges that James Brody, while Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Marine and Aviation, had granted leases on city piers to James Auditore, a ~~man~~ one-time longshoreman who became a millionaire-king of the stevedores. In the deal was associated Al Gross, who once served a prison term and was prominent in affairs of prohibition liquor.

(The leases on the piers brought to the city a total of a little more than nine thousand dollars, while ~~the~~ Auditore and Gross let them out on sub-leases and collected thirty thousand, five hundred dollars. Profit ~~of~~ more than twenty thousand dollars, about three hundred per cent.) Corruption was charged, and Deputy Commissioner Brody was forced to resign - the scandal

now coming to a crisis with the indictment, for
bribery and conspiracy, of the three men involved.

jewels to the place where they were hidden - in ^{the} Soviet Zone of Occupation.

We are told that some of the heirloom treasure is still hidden not having all been taken out - including paintings, old masters. And there are said to be a series of other angles, which are not being made public - in this latest Crown Jewel Case, which is something of an international affair.

So we see what's happened to eight of the fourteen who signed the document abolishing the Comintern -- when Soviet Russia was badly in need of western help. Of the six others, two are heads of Soviet Republics under Stalin, one is a member of the Moscow politburo. One is in exile from Spain -- and two have dropped out of sight. The Finnish member of the Comintern Committee was - Kuusinen. And today his daughter and son-in-law are leaders of the Communist Party in Finland.

In addition to this we may note that prominent products of the Comintern, though they were not on the Executive Committee, include -- Tito, the Red Dictator of Yngmã Yugoslavia; Bierut, the Communist President of Poland; Zachariades, head of the Greek Communist Party; Siantos, number two Greek Communist who died last week - and the top Chinese Communist Chieftains headed by Mao Tae-Tung. The same sort of thing goes for Communist leadership throughout the world - the Red big shots tracing back to the Comintern.

Well, anyway, we know the top-ranking figures of the Communist International are not carrying on secretly in Moscow. They are not running an undercover organization. They are heads of Red Puppet Governments and prominent chiefs of Communist power everywhere.