

SHIPS

P.T. - Sunoco. Friday, May 9, 1941.

This is just off the wire - the official British report of the shipping losses during April. The understanding is that the information was to have been released next Tuesday. But now we have the London Ministry of Information giving the ~~SIXTEEN~~ figures - four hundred and eighty-eight thousand, one hundred and twenty-four tons. One hundred and six ships were sent to the bottom to roll up that huge tonnage. London comments that these sinkings were among the heaviest of the entire war.

R.A.F.

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The war in the air rises to a thundering episode - the biggest British air raid against Nazi Germany thus far. Today London revealed the news of last night's bombing attack - a record-breaker. They say that between three and four hundred warplanes flew to the assault - twice as large as any sky fleet the British have hitherto sent against the Nazis. Between nine hundred and a thousand tons of high explosives and tens of thousands of incendiaries were dropped on Germany's great northern ports - Hamburg and Bremen. Berlin ^{tells of} ~~reports some of the~~ R.A.F. planes ^{flying} ~~flew~~ as far east as Posen - ^{on} ~~that's~~ the border of Poland, an immense flight for the sky raiders from Britain.

The Nazis, on their part, struck at that same western area of vital harbors. The Germans claim that the port of Hull was left - "a sea of flames." London says the raid was heavy but not so severe as on previous night.

The British Air Ministry today gave official confirmation of the fact that American-built planes have distinguished themselves in battle against the night raiders. One type is mentioned especially. "In Britain," says the Air Ministry, "these

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planes are known as the HAVOCS - a name they certainly have lived up to." The Nazi sky fleet has been losing an increasing number of bombers in the moonlight hostilities, and for this the HAVOCS are largely responsible.

DESTROYER

London tells a heroic story of a torpedoed Canadian destroyer, the SAGUENAY, Badly blasted and on fire, yet the crew brought their stricken ship to port, where the destroyer was repaired - and ^{is} ~~it's~~ back in service again.

Today's tale is told by a British naval correspondent on another warship that was nearby. Speaking of the SAGUENAY, he says: "When torpedoed, she was blazing badly, looking like a red hot coal in the middle of a pitch black ocean. The signal from the SAGUENAY to us," he continued ^λ, "should go down in history for calmness at a moment when all would seem lost. 'I've been hit in the nose and it hurts," was the Canadian signal.'"

SEA FIGHT

Rome claims a victory in the war of sea and sky. Italian torpedo planes are said to have attacked a heavily protected British convoy, and hit three merchantmen and six warships including a battleship, aircraft carrier and two cruisers, says Rome. Sixteen British planes were shot down, while five Italian aircraft were lost -- declares Rome.

The British fleet and the R.A.F. made a heavy attack on the Libyan port of Benghazi, and report that heavy damage was inflicted.

At Tobruk, the Axis forces are making their most violent assault -- masses of tanks forcing their way into one section of the defenses. The British tell of fourteen German tanks destroyed today.

RAIDER

The sea raider sunk by the British in the Indian Ocean was a former German liner - a fast passenger boat. ~~It is~~ understood ^{it} ~~that the former liner~~ was armed with six inch guns, torpedo tubes and mine-laying apparatus. The converted merchant vessel was able to put up a fight, as is indicated by the London statement that it inflicted some small damage on the British cruiser, CORNWALL - a powerful armored ship. Few details of the sinking were available - save that the CORNWALL rescued twenty-seven British prisoners aboard the raider and captured fifty-three members of the German crew.

RUSSIA

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Today another element was added in the enigma of the Soviets. Moscow dismissed the diplomatic representatives of Belgium, Norway and Jugoslavia - refused to grant them any further recognition. The Soviet reason is given in these words, "loss of sovereignty." Because Belgium, Norway and Jugoslavia have been conquered by the Nazis, their governments are not considered as having any official standing.

This new Moscow attitude is most striking of all in the case of Jugoslavia - because the Soviets ^{had} concluded a pact of non-aggression and friendship with Jugoslavia, a few days before that country was conquered by Hitler. Today's act by the Moscow government seems the ~~very~~ reverse of a gesture of friendship toward Great Britain - ^{decidedly} ~~appears to be~~ pro-Nazi in fact. And it comes as the first international act since Red Dictator Stalin became Premier of ~~Russia~~ the Soviet Union last week.

EMIR

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A melodramatic report flashes from the old City of Beirut in Syria, tonight. It states that the Emir of Transjordan has been shot by his son. The Emir is named Abdullah. The British placed him in power in the land beyond the Jordan - one of the monarchs created by the fabulous Lawrence of Arabia. — Son of Hussein Sherif of Mecca, brother of Feisal who led the Arab Revolt in 1917, Emir Abdullah is strongly pro-British, and the report has been

that he has been taking part in the organization of an expeditionary force to help the British in Iraq. He also was with Lawrence in the Revolt of the Desert.

Today's rumor from Beirut tells of a quarrel between Emir Abdullah and his second son, Talal. The subject of dissension between them is said to have been - Iraq, the Emir's policy in supporting the British. Presumably, Talal was opposed to Transjordanian aid to Britain - anti-British. The Emir and Talal quarreled so bitterly that the son shot the father, and wounded him severely, so says ~~a rumor~~ ^{the report} from Beirut.

SYRIA

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~~There's a report~~ ^{Word} from Budapest about the negotiations going on between the French Government and Berlin. This Hungarian rumor states that the Petain regime and the Nazis are discussing an arrangement whereby the Germans will be permitted to send their forces through the territory of the French colonies. Meaning, first of all - Syria. They say the French would permit Nazi units to pass through Syria and join the forces ^{of} Iraq in their battle against the British. This ~~agreement, says the~~ ^{states a} Budapest newspaper, means that Syria will be made available to Germany, providing the bases she needs for striking the British.

Still further, the report mentions the French West African colonies - and this with reference to the United States. Speaking of Nazi troops moving through Morocco and West Africa, Budapest uses these words:- "march to Dakar and prevent a possible American landing there."

In Paris today, a Nazi spokesman said that France had reached, what he called, "the cross-roads". The Petain Government must make a final decision - whether or not it's going to collaborate with Nazi Germany.

FRENCH WHEAT

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It was revealed today that the United States has agreed to send wheat to unoccupied France - two shiploads of grain per month. This to continue as long as the government of Marshal Petain remains pretty much as it is. The agreement for shipping the wheat was revealed by the French Ambassador to Washington, who stated that the two shiploads a month would provide about ten per cent of what unoccupied France needs until the summer harvest is in.

There's no official indication that the grain cargoes have a political meaning, but there's plenty of surmise. American grain would lessen the extent to which France is dependent on Nazi Germany for foodstuffs, and that would enable the Petain Government to take a more independent attitude toward Germany.

Moreover, the American grain shipments would unquestionably stop

if the French Government should yield to Berlin, ^{if} ~~in such matters~~

~~wheat~~ ~~if~~ - if you don't play ball
~~as permitted Nazi troops to pass through Syria.~~

with Hitler.

ROUND-UP

The immigration authorities today staged a round-up of ninety Italians, who had formerly been employed at the New York World's Fair - the Italian Pavilion. This follows the seizure of a hundred and twenty ^{German} sailors in New York ~~the~~ day before yesterday.

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The Italians who came to this country to work at the Fair should have left within thirty days ^{after the Fair closed,} So those taken in custody today have overstayed their leave - and ~~some~~ some are reported to have entered the country illegally. The presence of most of them has been known to the federal authorities who, however, have left them alone - until today.

~~Some of the former employees of the Italian Pavilion~~
^{Some today}
[^] were arrested [^] in Park Avenue clubs, in swanky hotels - officials of the Italian exhibit. Most of them, however, were found working as waiters and kitchen help in Italian restaurants on the East side. Presumably they're being held for deportation.

~~In the case of two prominent Germans arrested - it looks as if they will not be released on bail. They're Manfred Zapp, head of the German Trans-ocean News Service in the United States, and his assistant, Gunther Tonn. They are accused of having failed to~~

FIFTH COLUMN


Tonight we have news relating to such sinister matters as plots and conspiracies, sabotage and fifth column. None of it is serious; ~~and~~ some of it ~~is~~ funny.

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There was a bomb explosion at the Ford factory today, that vast River Rouge establishment which is working on millions of dollars' worth of defense orders. The blow-up occurred in a washroom of the tool and die building - in the near vicinity of extremely valuable equipment that is being used in the building of armament. The bomb was a crude affair - consisting of powders and small lengths of wire stuffed in a piece of lead pipe, each end of which was closed with adhesive tape. Apparently it was set off with a fuse.

~~There wasn't enough power in the thing to do any damage, couldn't possibly have interfered with plant production. The F.B.I. men say they can't quite figure out whether it was any real attempt at sabotage - or just a hoax, one of those ~~unexplained~~ unexplainable jokes. The local police described the infernal machine in these words:- "a home-made fire-cracker."~~

At another great factory building armament, we are told today of a discovery made by F.B.I. agents. Elaborate precautions had been taken to prevent possible sabotage. Maybe some fifth columnist might try to set the place on fire. So a hundred barrels of water were ^{put} ~~placed~~ at strategic points. However, the plant was infested with mosquitoes. An exterminating company was employed. Mosquitoes, ~~you know~~, multiply on top of standing water. And the way to destroy them is with oil. So the exterminating company poured five gallons of oil on top of the water in each of the hundred barrels. Hence, in trying to extinguish flames, you'd be doing it with oil!



The dynamite plot against President Roosevelt evaporated today. ^{An} ~~A rather~~ anti-climax to the story of two men ~~standing~~ planting high explosive in the presidential home, at Hyde Park.

A sixty-eight year old citizen informed the state police of overhearing a conversation between two sinister characters. ^{From} ~~their~~ ^{he gathered} ~~they made~~ remarks ~~together~~ ^{that} they were plotters who planned a dynamite attempt against the President. ~~at Hyde Park.~~ They already had the dynamite planted ~~there.~~ ^{at Hyde Park.}

The story was all the more weird because of the way he described the two men. The descriptions were exactly the same - all the way to the derby hats they wore. The police put it in these words, "It almost ~~makes~~ ^{did} them twins." ~~An immediate~~ ^g search ~~was made~~ at Hyde Park, but no dynamite ~~was found.~~ Neither were the police able to locate the two mysterious men - so closely alike, twins in derby hats.

5p
Today, the whole thing was solved. It turns out that the sixty-eight year old citizen is a carpenter who works at the President's estate. ^{And} He admitted ~~today~~ that his story was a hoax. ^{But} ~~But it was~~ a patriotic hoax. He's keenly alive to the war crisis,

and expressed his conviction in these words:- "The police are not being careful enough about subversive activities," he said.

So he wanted to stir them into increased ^{vigilance,} activity - ~~that's~~ why
^
he cooked up the scare about the President, ^{and} dynamite plot, and
^

the two identical men in derbies.

DOG-CATCHER

New York is witnessing an argument about art -- a row between Borough President Harvey, and Park Commissioner Robert Moses.

In an Italian section of the Borough of Queens, a new park is being laid out, and in it Borough President Harvey wants to set up a statue of Christopher Columbus. Appropriate in an Italian section, the war situation being what it is -- and the Italian vote being what it is. But Park Commissioner Moses objects. Not that he dislikes Columbo, who sailed the ocean blue. He complains that the statue doesn't look like the discoverer of America. It looks like somebody else -- not Columbo. — *maybe like Moses.*

That today provoked a personal exchange of epithets at a public session, with the Borough President roaring - "Anything Moses doesn't design himself he thinks is no good." Referring to the fact that the Park Commissioner is an official appointed by the Mayor, Harvey exploded: "He couldn't be elected dog-catcher,"

To which Moses responded, "I have no thought of running against you for dog-catcher, - ~~that~~ job is right up your alley."

So the question of art, sculpture and Christopher Columbus remains unsettled -- with the two high city officials concentrating their discussion on each other's qualifications as dog-catcher!

DUEL

At Harvard today two undergraduates were recuperating-
after a duel last night. They fought with mighty swords, the Homeric
weapons of Grecian warriors.

Harvard is staging a classic play -- in which the heroine is
Cassandra, the legendary lady of Grecian myth. The Harvard Cassandra
is Miss Marie Herrera. In the play, one of the Greek warriors takes
Cassandra in his arms, ~~and kills~~ ^{-- and slays} her. ~~Not kisses -- kills.~~

In one performance, the embrace of death was assigned to
Milos Safranek, son of a Yugoslav official at Washington. In the
next performance, Jefferson Duffield was chosen. The two got into
a row about it, and fought for the privilege of holding the ^damsel
in their arms and ~~killing~~ ^{slaying her - stage play.} her. We aren't told which was the most
fascinating -- the holding or the ~~killing~~ ^{slaying.}

Both students were costumed as Greek warriors -- helmets,
shields, swords and all. ^{Anyhow} They battled it out the way the heroes of
Homer used to do -- with the clashing of sword on helmet and shield.

Luckily, the weapons were theatrical prop swords - made of wood, ~~—~~
^{they were} but ponderous. The two duelists couldn't behead each other -- it was
more like socking with heavy clubs, ^{more Neanderthal}
^{than Homeric.}
Other students tried to separate them - ^{and} were almost beamed

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by the swinging swords. So furious were the classic duelists,
that the peace-makers could only get them apart by dowsing them
with buckets of water. That ended it, with the question still to
be decided - who would take Cassandra in his arms and ~~kill her?~~
slay her?

But now, something [^]more
gentle - much more gentle from
9 1/4 Hugh.