L.I.-Sunoco. Wed., Nov. 22, 1939.

SHIPS

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Today in Great Britain first official mention was made of a thing that has been rumored, but hardly believed, a new weapon of war - the magnetic mine. — reported as responsible for the recent terror of sinkings on the sea. Perhaps Hitler, when he talked of ~~a~~ this new and more terrible weapon, was referring to ~~a~~ this type of mine more cunning and deadly than anything known heretofore. The magnetic mine has been reported as a huge charge of high explosive that lies at the bottom of the sea, and is mechanized in such fashion that when the steel hull of a ship passes over it - the steel attracts the mine which rises and strikes it, with a terrific explosion. The frightful destructiveness of such a weapon is obvious. Ordinary mines are set below the surface of the water, at a depth at which the keel of a ship will hit them. Protection against these ~~ordinary mines~~ is by mine-sweeping, which means - pulling a long cable along not far below the surface, the cables striking the mines and exploding them. Obviously, this sort of mine-sweeping will not be effective against the explosives that lie on the bottom, magnetic mines that rise to hit a ship.

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The magnetic mine story has not been taken very

seriously - until today. In Great Britain it was not officially talked about - until now. This evening, in an address on the air, Sir John Simon, Chancellor of the Exchequer, referred to the German use of magnetic mines. Did he deny the existence of this new weapon? Not at all. He described the magnetic mine as, "the latest abomination of German savagery." A late dispatch tells of the British developing all-wooden ships for mine sweepers - to sweep the bottom of the sea; wooden ships that won't attract magnetic mines.

This is the latest in the news of the sea terror that has resulted in the sinking of a whole series of ships in British waters. The latest, the Italian freighter FIANONA, which was badly damaged by a mine explosion today, The magnetic mine comes as a new element in warfare on the sea - perhaps an incalculable element.

The British are responding drastically to the terror - as drastically as they can. Word from London tells of a new blitzkrieg to be launched - a British economic blitzkrieg. Meaning - a lightning war in the economic realm, the realm that Britain has chosen for its main attempt to win the war. All rules are to be tossed aside in closing the water routes against Nazi Germany, particularly - the complete cutting off of the German export trade.

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by sea. The importance of this lies in the fact that Germany needs to export goods in order to get foreign currency - real cash - gold with which to buy badly needed war supplies. By cutting off Germany's export money, Britain hopes to deprive the German Army of a lot of necessary war materials. Thereby tightening the blockade, promoting economic strangulation.

The German exports by sea have been going out ~~thought~~ through neutral countries, Belgium and Holland in particular. For example, one-third of the trade that goes ~~in~~ through the port of Antwerp consists of German-made goods shipped abroad. If this trade is cut off, it will be a heavy blow to the neutrals, and late word today is that both Belgium and Holland are making a joint protest to London - complaining that the blockading of German exports is a violation of international law. Just what two small neutral countries can do about it, is not clear. But they are protesting.

~~Of course, there's the powerful neutral - Italy. But the reports are that Mussolini's people won't be hit so hard by a British ban on German exports. It might boom Italian trade - Italy doing the export business forbidden to Germany.~~

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AIRPLANES

The war in the sky provided picturesque action today -- and quite a picture it must have been for the people along the estuary of the Thames just outside London. A German war plane came flying over, and didn't bother to fly high. That Nazi warbird was so bold he swooped down right over London's suburban towns. People in the streets gaped with amazement at what they described as --"a streak of silver in the sky." In some places the German plane flew so low it is described as skimming the housetops. One Englishman, who was having a drink in a pub at the time, tells the story in these words: "The German plane flew over our pub," he relates. "We all ducked because we thought it would hit the chimney-pots." No bombs were dropped, a mere reconnaissance flight of sheer bravado by the Nazi aviator who went winging away.

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But all the Nazi reconnaissance fliers are not so lucky. TheBritish report that their planes shot down a Heinkel bomber yesterday. It landed in the sea. And today's news tells of the crew being picked up in their collapsible boat.

~~Two other German planes were shot down by the Royal Air Force; and one over the French coast, that crashed in Belgium.~~

There was bombing in the Shetland Islands today. What are they aiming at in those far northern isl~~ands~~es up there above Scotland? The Berlin account speaks of naval ~~xxxxix~~ vessels being attacked. The London story ~~has~~ relates that the German air raiders hit a British seaplane, which was moored at a dock -- and set it afire.

And on the Western Front today's story is air activity. Paris reports that Allied airmen have shot down eight Nazi skycraft in the last forty-eight hours. The French say they lost two. This account of Allied air success continues to feature the fact that the French are flying American-built war planes -- ~~in the~~ American skycraft winning ~~the~~ victories.

mines + Plane.
~~POLICE SHIPS~~

Here's a late bit of news. It ties up almost miraculously with two items we've just had - the one about magnetic mines and the other about the German plane that was shot down over the English coast and landed in the North Sea, the crew rescued.

The British Admiralty has just announced — a British destroyer struck a mine! The destroyer GIPSY - victim of a terrific explosion, so badly damaged it had to be beached. Tonight the GIPSY lies with only the bridge and mast above water. Twenty-one injured and forty missing. The seventh British warship to fall a victim to the war at sea — a wild mine says London. Presumably one of those magnetic mines.

It was the GIPSY that picked up the survivors of the German plane that had been shot down, put them to shore and went out to sea again - when it struck the mine. The crew had taken up a collection for the captured German airmen - a fine bit of chivalry. But the money was lost when the destroyer was sunk - by the magnetic mine.

HITLER BOMB

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In the fantastic story of the beer-cellar-bomb-plot to kill Hitler, the Nazis today continued to blast against Otto Strausser. They are hammering away at the charge that the conspiracy originated with him -- the one-time ace-high Nazi and colleague of Hitler.

Strausser replied today in Paris:- "If the Gestapo decided, " said he, "that it would be useful to launch accusations against our Black Front -- that convinces me of the power of our organization."

Many an observer has been surprised by the Berlin story that Otto Strausser and his Black Front were responsible for the attempt to kill Hitler that so nearly succeeded -- didn't suppose that the ex-Nazi Chieftain and his under-cover outfit inside of Germany were anything like so ~~powerful~~ formidable.

Strausser today went on to say: "Our action has become so wide-spread in the interior of the Reich that they are obliged to start a big offensive against the enemy within."

He added that his organization in Germany has nothing to fear. "The Gestapo are seeking to strike at the Black Front which has men in it whom they will never discover," said he - adding: - "They are working not only in each Nazi party organization, but in the Gestapo itself."

~~Briefly -- Strasser is talking of the importance of an anti-Hitler element in Germany, in the Nazi party, and even in the Gestapo Secret Police. He's predicting that there will be a revolt in Nazi Germany before long -- a revolt started by his Black Front.~~

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As for the beer-cellar explosion, Strasser declares he knows nothing about the German Elser, who is accused of having placed the bomb, or ~~about~~ of two British Intelligence officers under arrest.

Many men have been embarrassed when letters they've written to ladies have been read in court, but seldom embarrassed as much as Fritz Kuhn was today. But then Fritz is a Bundes Fuehrer, and that is something special. We all know that "Fuehrer" means -"a Hitler." That's what Fritz is in the German-American Bund. And when a Bundes Fuehrer writes a letter to a lady, calling her his "golden angel" and telling her she's "heaven sent", it's something outof the ordinary - especially when it's read in court.

Trying to prove that Fritz used funds of the Bund to pay bills for lady friends, the prosecution today proceeded to read sentimental letters that Fritz had soulfully penned. These concerned a fair one ~~Mrs. Camp~~ whom Fritz met on a boat going to Germany. He was married and she was married, yet the prosecution wanted to know whether Fritz had asked her to marry him. ~~This, on the witness stand, he indignantly denied. He~~ Whereupon he described ~~Mrs. Camp~~ her in these words - "too much of a lady to marry a man she has known for only four or five days." Which is drawing a fine point on what constitutes a lady.

Thereupon, the prosecution read the following lyrical outpour:- "Florence, I am terribly in love with you. I beg you to

become my beloved wife. Heaven sent you, and I will never forget that."

Fritz admitted he had written it, but explained - it was all in fun, just a joke. Blushing furiously he testified, "I wrote it on a night we had a big party on the boat. It was all in fun." Well, Fritz, begging a lady to become your beloved wife may be just a joke - but many a man has found it's no laughing matter.

The lovelorn testimony continued with the question - whether or not Fritz had helped the heaven sent lady to get a divorce, and then went on to the subject of astrology - a science which is also more or less heaven sent. It appears that Fritz romantically consulted the stars with reference to his golden angel. "You know," he wrote to her, "I believe a little bit in astrology, and I looked your horoscope up." Apparently the astrology had something to do with the theory of waves, vibrations from the constellations and the planets. Fritz knows about that theory of astral waves, in fact he invented it more or less. He wrote to the heaven sent golden angel ~~the~~ with these deep words, "You know my theory of waves - after all, I have discovered some of it." So said Fritz.

All of which makes ~~Fritz~~ Kuhn seem to be a Bundes Fuehrer and an astrologer rolled into one. And here's an addition. Later in his testimony Kuhn admitted that in talking to the golden angel about a wedding day - he was lying to her.

HUNTERS

~~They're having a bird of a time in Oklahoma - all because of the Thanksgiving Day mix-up. And "bird" doesn't mean turkey, either - it means quail.~~

The game law in Oklahoma decrees that quail may be hunted on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and holidays. But what's a holiday? ~~Attorney~~ The Attorney General has ruled that a holiday is whatever is ~~proclaimed~~ decreed by the President or by the governor of the state. President Roosevelt has proclaimed tomorrow as Thanksgiving Day. While the Governor of Oklahoma has stuck to tradition and proclaimed the following Thursday, November Thirtieth. Hence, according to the Attorney General's ruling, it's legal for hunters to go after quail both tomorrow and Thursday of next week.

That's okay with the hunters, but along comes the Fish and Game Commission which states that they don't regard tomorrow as a holiday at all, President or no President. "It's just plain Thursday to us," said the Fish and Game Commissioner today. So that leaves the quail hunters in a dilemma. If they follow one state authority they may get locked up by the other state authority. So tonight the quail hunters are quailing — and grousing. ~~saying unpleasant things. Nobody reports what the quail are saying.~~

DOG

Today the New York State Supreme Court was presented with an intricate case of law, a dog-gone case, a case with a bite, three bites in fact. Mrs. Helen Brown's dog Bob on three different occasions bit somebody - that's admitted. ~~IxxN~~

In New York there's a state law that if a dog bites people three times - that's the end of the dog. The defense of Bob is that Bob took his first bite before the law was passed. The law is not retroactive, and so the first bite doesn't count. So legally Bob has bit people only twice. The prosecution argues that it isn't a question of the first bite but of the third. That's a puzzling twister with which to hound the New York State Supreme Court.

SKUNK

In New York today a refugee arrived - a refugee from Kansas City. She is fleeing from a polecat. Her husband has brought her east for a while - to forget. Today she told her tragic story.

"I'm a wreck," she sighed. "My whole life seems to be mixed up. Just a week ago I was worried about Thanksgiving being - mixed up. It comes on the Twenty-Third in Missouri, and on the Thirtieth in Kansas, and we live practically on the line. Things are so confused," said she, with a catch in her throat.

Yes, things did become dreadfully confused for the hapless lady. Because just as she was most perplexed about the two Thanksgiving Days - a polecat got in the basement of her home. And she knew it when she took the first sniff. And the sniffs grew stronger and more pungent. She tried to get the wood-pussy ~~polecat~~ out of the basement, but in vain. She tried it for several days, but the only result was that the house became increasingly unbearable. Her ~~xxxx~~ wardrobe, all her fine clothes were permeated by that effluvium. Her evening gown, her lingerie, all smelled strongly - and not of perfume. ~~of polecat.~~ She was beginning to be afraid that she herself might be

similarly scented -- forever. Between that and the puzzle about Thanksgiving Day, the hapless lady fled. And now her husband was brought her east, to a different clime, to different scenes -- to forget.

HORSES

58½ Here's a story so old-fashioned that it certainly is news. It's about runaway horses and a feed store. Three weeks ago, there was a huge hullabaloo at Cooperstown, New York, when a team of horses ran away and went dashing along the whole length of the business section. Nobody could stop them. In this era of the automobile, only old timers ~~nobody seems to~~ know how to ~~handx~~ halt a runaway team - though most folks ~~people~~ used to know in the good old horse and buggy ~~old~~ days. The rampaging horses and wagon in Cooperstown might have kept going nobody knows how long, save that up the line was a feed store. There the horses stopped and stood sniffing.

59 Today, once again in Cooperstown, there was a runaway. Horses and wagon went careening wildly through the business district, and once again the horses stopped - at the feed store. (~~This evening at Cooperstown, they're thinking of establishing feed stores at intervals to stop runaway teams of horses - quite an ingenious idea in this motor age.~~)

And now Hugh tell us something about the motor age! -

59¼ I see you have a stack of letters.