

X2. - Snow - Monday, July 15, 1946

Remember the days in Nineteen Forty-two and forty-Three when things were going none too well with us, and when we were cheered by the way the Yugoslav Chetniks were battling the Germans? How America and Britain rang with the praises of the Chetniks and their leader, General Mikhailovitch?

Well, things are not going so favorably for the Chetnik leader now. In fact today, in Belgrade, Tito's military court ^{today} found a verdict of guilty against General Mikhailovitch and ten other outstanding Yugoslavs. Found them guilty of treason; and sentenced them to -- death.

Surely this is one of the great tragedies of the Post War period, one of the most melancholy events of our time. The crowd in the courtroom - mostly Croats - applauded the verdict, cheered the sentence of Mikhailovitch, the man who once was such a great hero.

There is nothing mysterious about this dramatic reversal in the Chetnik General's position, his tragic decline from the esteem and pride that attend

a hero to the abuse and obloquy of a man accused of treachery, of collaborating with the hated Nazis. We all know most of the story - how not a word was ever whispered against Mikhailovitch, ~~ym~~ until the fall of Nineteen Forty Three, when a new figure appeared on the horizon in Jugoslavia - a puppet of the Soviets, taking his orders from Moscow. The Russians wanted a top man in Belgrade who could swing that country over to the Soviet orbit. In the fall of Nineteen Forty-three, it was that Moscow sent a note to the Yugoslav Government-in-exile, in London, denouncing Mikhailovitch. Moscow insisted that Tito must be supported, and to please Russia the Allies gave in. Whereupon Mikhailovitch and his men took to the hills.

During the recent trial Mikhailovitch admitted that he had, once, attacked the Partisan Forces ~~in~~ of Tito. That he did so because Tito's men had got out of hand and were plundering their own people.

Today's verdict and sentence are no

surprise although it has been a long trial, it has been apparent that Mikhailovitch hadn't a chance. Even the American Flyers, who bailed out over Jugosalvia and who were helped to safety and freedom by Mikhailovitch were not allowed to go to his aid and testify. Three times Mikhailovitch's lawyers tried to get the judges to call the American airmen. Twice the court refused, the third time the court simply ignored the request.

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An appeal has been made to President Truman to intercede with the Communist Government of Jugoslavia in behalf of General Mikhailovitch. This appeal comes from Constantin Fottich, former ambassador to the United States from the old Jugoslav government.

But, tonight, it looks as though Mikhailovitch will be facing a firing squad, before long.

AMERICANS

Word at last about the American warrant officer and his wife who disappeared. The Russians are holding them as hostages, in Berlin. Yes, and the Soviet authorities say our people are holding two Russians. But Major General Keating, American Military Governor in the German capital, says the Americans are not holding any ~~Rxx~~ Russians.

The latest is that Warrant Officer Harrison and his wife may be released soon. Major General Dratvin, the Russian Commander in Berlin, has promised to set them free.

General Keating promises that there will be sensational ~~xxxx~~ revelations when the Harrisons are released. All of which seems to bear out what we've heard from Newspapermen who have returned home recently. They say that ~~xxxxx~~ numerous Americans, both soldiers and civilians, have disappeared in the Russian zone, and that nothing has been heard of them.

SPIES

Somewhere in the United States there is a master spy, of the Soviet ~~government~~. This ~~is~~ hardly falls in the category of news, because there are doubtless dozens, even scores of Soviet secret agents in ~~the~~ ^{our} country. But this one appears to be of particular importance. He attended a University ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ Los Angeles under the name of Ignacy Witczak, and his wife is named Dunia.

This information comes to light through a report made by a Canadian Royal Commission which has been investigating the Russian espionage system on this continent. One fact ~~is~~ it reveals is that the Russian military attache in Ottawa obtained a sample of uranium-two-three-five, the stuff of which the atomic bomb is made, and took it to Moscow by plane. The name of the attache is given as Lieutenant Colonel Motinov. He obtained that sample through Dr. Allen Nunn May, the British scientist recently sentenced to ten years in prison for his activities on ~~his~~ behalf of the Soviets in connection with atomic research.

That Royal Commission declares that the Russian spy network ~~has~~ wormed itself into the Canadian Department of External Affairs, which means the Foreign Office. ^{So it was} ~~It was by that means~~ that they obtained a forged passport for the super spy going under the name of Ignacy Witczak. The passport was originally issued to a real Ignacy Witczak, a fellow who fought in the Spanish Civil War on the loyalist side. It was taken from him by a Spanish officer and thus passed into the hands of the Russians. ^{TR} The commission puts it in these words: "There can be little doubt that the N K V D, the secret political police of the Soviet Union, have a powerful organization in Canada. ^{TR} The Soviet Embassy in Ottawa operated as the headquarters and nerve center of the Russian espionage organization, not only on this continent, but also in Europe. Soviet agents also operated through the international labor office, which was transplanted to Canada from Geneva.

IRAN

More trouble among the Persians. One hundred thousand employees of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company went on strike yesterday. They don't seem to be asking for more money, but ~~are on~~ ^{are on} ~~carrying out~~ a political strike, ~~they~~ ^{ing} object, to the Governor General of the Province in which the Oil Company's properties are located, the Province of Khuzistan. And they talk about the interference of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in the political affairs of Iran. To meet the issue, the Teheran Government ^{has} declared martial law throughout the Province, ~~with~~ ^{with} Iranian Troops seized ^{ing} the Oil Company's properties.

Labor Union Leaders in the Iranian Capital visited the War Ministry today and received a promise that the Military Commander in that Province would not interfere in the strike. ~~One cannot help wondering~~ ^{all} ^{Well,} ~~at the bottom of this?~~ ^{It follows right} ~~on the heels of~~ ^{might soon after} the withdrawal of the Russians and the establishment of a Communist Government in the Iranian Province of Azerbaijan. ~~One is prompted to ask,~~

PALESTINE

President Truman today had a visit from a delegation of Jewish war veterans. The subject of their visit, as you would guess -- Palestine. They told the President that, unless the homeless Jews in Europe are permitted to enter and do it immediately, there will be mass suicides. They told the President they are convinced that in most of Europe it's impossible for Jews to live decent and useful lives. That ^{for} most of them ~~***~~ it's a question of Palestine or death.

These Jewish war veterans were bitter toward Great Britain. They told the President that the British Government's demand for American Troops in the Holy Land is all a colossal bluff. They also said that the present large concentration of British troops in Palestine is equally unnecessary. That the Jews in Palestine are amply able to protect their country and themselves against Arab attacks, which they claim are extremely unlikely ~~anyx~~ anyhow. Then they made an interesting offer, that if Mr. Truman does consider it desirable to send American Troops to the Holy Land that

they, the Jewish veterans would like to recruit a full division of Jewish volunteers for service in the American Army in the Holy Land.

BRITISH LOAN

The British Government has promised to abolish the sterling bloc inside of a year. This means the British Dominions, Egypt, India and Argentina will be better able to buy goods in the U.S.A. The British also guarantee to abolish all controls interfering with American imports into the United Kingdom.

This follows the American grant of that three billion - seven hundred and fifty million dollar loan to Britain.

The Act of Congress granting the loan, was signed today by President Truman. Are the British grateful? Officially, yes; but unofficially not so much so.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said today without these billions the people of Great Britain would have had to face worse living conditions. He says the loan will give Britain a breathing spell, and enable the government to buy foodstuffs abroad and give the people a more varied diet than they've had for nearly seven years.

But, both laborites and conservatives were somewhat bitter about the loan, with the conservatives almost unanimous in calling it a prelude to disaster, a sell-out of the empire.

MAY

The Mead Committee today heard the story told by an agent of that- Mid-Western paper empire which garnered a fortune out of war contracts. Joseph F. Freeman, its Washington Representative, said he never had much trouble getting through to Congressman Andrew May of Kentucky. Freeman, incidentally, was paid seventy thousand dollars in one year for his activities in Washington on behalf of those Garrson firms. In Nineteen Forty-four. In Nineteen Forty-One, Freeman's salary was five-thousand eight hundred dollars. He told the Senators that whenever his employers, the Garrsons, were having difficulty, he would call and ask to see May. And the Chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee interceded whenever they asked him to.

Senator Mead asked Freeman what high military officers he contacted. Freeman replied, none, but that he saw Congressman May probably six or eight times, maybe more. But that May was not always cooperative. In fact sometimes he was busy Freeman had to wait a week to see him.

But that Congressman May always helped them out.

Senator Mead announced today that he had made his last offer to Congressman May, inviting him to appear before the Committee; that is appear of his own free will without any strings to it.

O.P.A.

Labor Unions all over the country are planning strikes and demonstrations of protest against the fading out of O.P.A. The leaders of the United Automobile Workers are planning to walk out tomorrow afternoon at three^e o'clock for a couple of hours, eight hundred thousand of them. At Minneapolis, union truck drivers and other workers are planning a work-holiday on July Thirty-First. At Springfield, Illinois, the President of the Independent Progressive Mine Workers of America called for a nationwide labor strike. The heads of C.I.O. Unions at Hartford, Connecticut, are going to consider a buyers' strike throughout the State of Connecticut. Similar demonstrations are planned for Philadelphia and other places.

~~Grocers report that the women are grumbling about butter at eighty cents a pound, but no organized strike from people who refuse to pay the price. Others don't. Eighty cents is not as high as the black market prices of three weeks ago, which in most places were the ~~actual~~ actual prices for which butter could be obtained.~~

CAT

How far can a cat fall without being injured? Maybe this question occurred to the inquiring mind of Felix, the pet of Miss Mary Jordan, daughter of the Director of Promotion of the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Felix is three years old, half manx, and, ~~as the story goes,~~ half nobody ~~know~~ knows. He has had some interesting associates. When he was a young kitten, he was in the household of Dr. Ernest Stebbins, Professor of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University and former Commissioner of Health of New York City. In the Stebbins family, Felix was called Timoshenko. Miss Jordan changed ^{that} ~~it~~ to Felix.

Felix today fell or jumped off the window-sill from an apartment house on Riverside Drive in New York. He landed nine stories below on a ledge, landed on ^{his} ~~the~~ four feet, ^{and} ~~he~~ walked ^{nonchalantly away.} ~~gayly a short~~ ~~distance along that ledge, then hopped gracefully down to the sidewalk.~~

Miss Jordan's father ^{to} ~~ruled~~ down the elevator,

expecting to find ^{that} his daughter had no more pet. Instead, he found a cat not only ~~completely~~ alive but ~~exceedingly~~ indignant. When Mr. Jordan went to pick him up, he

growled and scratched ~~and wriggled as though~~ trying to

say: "Acy"

"This shouldn't happen to a cat!" The veterinarian could

find ~~no broken bones, but reserved decision on the nine~~

~~lives of Felix.~~ *nine stories Felix fell, and not a hair out of place.*

BYRNES

By the way, let's all listen to Secretary Byrnes tonight, when he ~~g~~ gives his report to the nation on the Big-Four Conference at Paris. Ten tonight eastern Daylight Time.

Präsident Truman says it will be an important speech. And that should be enough to cause all of us to listen.

And now Hugh lets listen to you.