

RUINS

P. J. - Sunoco. Monday, Dec. 2, 1940.

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The story about Southampton today in the dispatches is labelled "Ruins." Until recently, the Nazis had more or less ignored that south coast harbor where so many ^{travellers caught} Americans ~~have got~~ their first glimpse of England. ~~over~~ ^{night} over the weekend, Goering's raiders heaped one attack upon another. ~~on it~~. And tonight Southampton was one of the most spectacular scenes of devastation in all Britain.

Incidentally, there seems to be a change of policy by the British censors, for tonight they allow the literal truth about this disaster to be cabled.

~~It is recalled that~~ H.G. Wells, ⁱⁿ ~~wrote~~ a book called "The Shape of Things to Come," ~~in it he~~ ^{well, an} drew a picture of Britain with all its principal cities in ruins. ~~An~~ ^A American reporter, visiting Southampton today, said that Hitler's incendiary and high explosive bombs have left Southampton as ^{H.G.} Wells might have imagined it. For half a mile along the main street there stood nothing but black walls, fire gutted buildings, and heaps of piled rubble. And in dozens of other parts of the city there were gaps where whole blocks of houses had been flattened to piles of

rubble. Tonight, there was a stream of homeless refugees pouring out of Southampton by any means they could find, mostly on foot. But, the casualties were only three hundred and seventy, which includes killed and seriously injured.

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And tonight Hitler's bombers hurled a new mass attack, perhaps on Bristol or Plymouth.

And what about that Greek War? Fierce fighting east of Argyrokastron, fierce fighting in the Dhyrnopolis Mountain range, with heavy casualties on both Greek and Italian sides. Not only the Greeks but the Fascists have hauled artillery to the tops of the mountains where they are shelling each other.

There's at least a temporary halt to the triumphant onward march of the Greeks. Military experts who know the territory, say this is to be expected. The Greek push bound to slow down because they are now in a country that is not so familiar.

The British say it is wrong to throw aspersions at the will and power to fight of the Italians. Italian soldiers are as good as anybody, but they were let down by poor leadership and inefficient planning. The British also say that the Italian retreat never became a rout as was reported, because the prisoners the Greeks took were numbered in the hundreds and not in the thousands. On the other hand, a dispatch from Athens has it that the Greeks have taken seven thousand prisoners.

From Italy nothing much is reported except that the Fascisti claim they are holding their own against superior concentrations of

Greek forces, which sounds a little queer when you think of the relative strength of the two countries.

To be sure, the claims made in Athens are far more glowing. The radio in the Greek capital boasts that all Italian counter-attacks were thrust back with enormous losses, and that the Hellenic troops continue to push in from all sectors in spite of two days of heavy snow. A later broadcast claims that Greek artillery has cut the main highway to Tirana, capital of Albania, destroyed the only line of retreat for the Italians in that sector. Here's a still later bulletin -- the Greeks are reported to have thrust within thirty miles of Tirana.

SHIPS

Signals of distress were heard in New York from far out at sea on the North Atlantic, some four hundred miles off the Irish Coast. A squadron of British merchant ships bound for besieged Britain, when a regular convoy of raiders hove in sight. With torpedoes under water and with bombs from aloft, the Nazis raised havoc with that British convoy. At least nine ships were attacked, five of them torpedoed. The report is that the radio signals intercepted indicate that in addition to one ship sunk, all the others were either sunk also or are in a sinking condition.

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From farther south comes news of a different kind. The masters of a couple of German freighters declared thaty they were being pursued by warships. Nazi ships thatleft Tampico last Friday; trying to run the British blockade. Hoping to reach Cuba.

SPAIN

Here's news from Spain that may be significant. The Government of ~~Francisco~~ Franco has signed an agreement with Great Britain; ~~an agreement covering finances. It's~~ a compact to regulate payments between Spain and Spanish colonies on the one side and the countries which are on a Sterling basis on the other. ~~side. Of course That of itself~~ sounds rather ~~academic and~~ technical ^{and is} ~~It's~~ worth repeating ~~here tonight~~ only because of the endless rumors ~~we've been receiving~~ that Franco was about to join the Axis in an open attack upon Britain.

RUMANIA

News from Rumania tells today of a triumphal march of German troops through the streets of Bucharest: in honor of King Michael and the Dictator, Premier Antonescu. Hitler's tanks, motorized trucks and cannon rolled past the grandstand. And the people of Rumania watched them roll -- watched in dead silence while Nazi airplanes circled and maneuvered overhead. Only at the sight of their young King, did the Roumanians cheer.

There's no outward sign yet that the Nazis have actually taken over, though it has been predicted that the Iron Guard blood purge was all staged by Hitler just as an excuse to take over Rumania.

Also we hear that quite a number of Rumanian soldiers have fled, crossed the frontier into Hungary.

CHINA

Senators and Representatives today approved the President's proposal to lend fifty million to help stabilize the currency of China. Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau explained to the Senate and House Committee that nothing definite had been done yet because they want to keep faith and always consult Congress before doing anything concrete. This Fifty million dollars will come out of the two billion dollar stabilization fund placed at the disposal of the Treasury.

In addition to Secretary Morgenthau, Secretary of State Hull was a surprise witness at the meeting. The result when all was over was a vote of confidence, unanimous.

SOVIET FOLLOW CHINA

And it seems most probable today that Stalin is going to continue helping Chiang Kai-shek. After Japan signed that Treaty with the Axis, there was considerable guessing that the Soviet Government might flop its policy, withdraw support from China, in order to help the Japanese. And when Tokyo recognized the Wang ^{support} ~~Chiang Kai-shek~~ government of Nanking, the observers expected some definite announcement from Moscow. ^{Although none} ~~But none is forthcoming.~~ ^[has come the] ~~The~~ sentiment in Moscow is ^{all} in favor of Chiang Kai-shek.

ALASKA

The people of Alaska are said to be goggle-eyed over the speed with which our defense program is forging ahead in the territory. At the same time it is being whispered that the various government agencies ^{that} are putting the work over are not coordinated.

This information comes from a distinguished source -- Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, explorer-scientist, also an advisor on northern operations to Pan-American Airways. It was on that job that Stef -- as we call him at the Explorers Club -- recently put in two months at Alaska. And -- he brings back word that the Alaskans are nervous about the Japanese.

As for aggression from the Russians, he said there is just about as much danger of a Russian attack upon Alaska as a Canadian attack on the United States across the open border.

EXPLOSION

Still another explosion in a munitions plant!

This

time
~~It's~~
^

on the Pacific Coast, ~~this time~~, near Tacoma, Washington.

Four men dead at the plant of the Columbia Powder Company.

The men who were killed just vanished. The shock was felt

for thirty miles. It was just four days ago since there was a

similar explosion at the factory of the Dupont ^{Powder} ~~Factory~~ Company

near Fort Lewis. The officials of the Company keep a dead

silence *about causes.*

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LEAHY

Admiral Leahy today threw cold water on the report that he was about to succeed Joe Kennedy as Ambassador to London. He returned from Puerto Rico, and had a conference with the President, at the White House prior to taking up his job as Ambassador to Vichy, the first naval officer, I believe ever to hold such an office. The report that he'd be at Vichy only a very short time and would then be sent to London, was news to him, said the Admiral Ambassador. But, he added, of course he'll go wherever the boss sends him.

He wouldn't talk about relations between ourselves ^{and} the French. But he did throw the suggestion that Martinique, the French Island in the Carribbean, would make a very good base for us.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt, right now is on his way to sea.

He left Washington by special train, Floriday-bound. Somewhere in Florida he will board the cruiser TUSCALOOSA. He is off to inspect the defenses of the Panama Canal. And, the report is ~~xx~~ that he may take a look at those new naval and air bases in the Caribbean.

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WALTER-LOGAN

Congress has finally and definitely passed the Walter-Logan Bill, the measure to give the lower courts a say on the behavior of federal agencies. The House polished it off today, passed all the amendments that the Senators had stuck into the bill, and approved the whole job by the whopping vote of a hundred and seventy-six to a hundred and fifty-one.

It was promptly sent to the White House, where it was about as welcome as the proverbial cat at a picnic. Everybody says the President is sure to veto it.

MADDEN

There was a bit ^{of a} to do in the Senate today over J. Warren Madden, late Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

~~And it wasn't the first time. While Madden held that chairman's job, the complaints against him were many and vociferous. When~~

Madden ^{as chairman,} ~~he resigned, two other high up officials of the board quit their jobs with him. As a reward,~~

President Roosevelt appointed him to the United States Court of Claims. But he hasn't been

confirmed yet. Majority Leader ~~Senator~~ Barclay asked the Senate

to consider J. Warren Madden today. Senator Vandenberg of

Michigan objected for the second time. Senator Barkley then

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said that if the Republican Senator persists, there might be no action on his nomination until the next session of Congress.

To which Senator Vandenberg replied that this would not break his heart. There are some Senators, he said, who are not

convinced of ~~his~~ Madden's judicial eligibility. In support of which he read a telegram from Senator Taft of Ohio.

Vandenberg then told Barkley that if they persist in trying to dispose of the matter, he'll call for a quorum, and that would make an awkward situation. It takes forty-nine

senators to make a quorum, and it is believed that there aren't that many in the capital at the moment. The Senate has been carrying on because by tacit consent nobody has as yet insisted on a quorum. At any rate, J. Warren Madden is not yet a judge.

WEATHER

Tidings of great joy - to those who sell overcoats.

Cold, cold all over the country, volumes of freezing air sweeping down out of the mouth of the McKenzie River. But never too cold for your car to start on Blue Sunoco. Eighteen below at Devil's Lake, North Dakota. Up in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, twenty-five and twenty-two below.

Just to show that Nature knows no favorites, there are heavy storms in Italy, the first of winter. The thermometer went below zero in Bologna, one of Mussolini's favorite cities; also in the Alpine Mountains, at Lizzano and Casteldaino - in case you are interested in Litzahono and Castel dah eeno.

MIGRANTS

A Professor from the University of California, testifying before the Committee of Representatives who are investigating the migration of destitute farm workers, today told the Congressmen that mechanization and other developments are constantly increasing the number of farmers who are being turned off their land. More and more land operated by fewer and fewer people. More and more farms owned by absentee landlords and operated by hired overseers and directors. All, said he, caused by ownership of mechanical farm equipment by copperative organizations.

FOOD FOLLOW MIGRANTS

And another farm expert today made the statement that the number of Americans who are not getting proper food totals around forty-five millions. Who said this? Dr. M. L. Wilson, once a successful farm operator on a huge scale, now Extension Director of the United States Department of Agriculture. He says the forty-five million people are poorly fed not through scarcity but bad habits; not knowing what food they should eat to be healthy. He told this to a convention of restaurant men.

MAGIC

58 1/2 The parishioners of St. Paul's Congregational Church at Chicago ^{were much surprised} ~~had an unusual thrill~~ yesterday. As the ⁱⁿ new preacher

stepped into the pulpit he showed the congregation an empty

^{Into this he} cylinder. ~~he~~ put colored silk ribbons. ~~into it~~. Then with a

flip of his wrist, ^{out} ~~he~~ ~~pour~~ poured ~~out~~ a bouquet of roses.

"That cylinder is your life," said the preacher to the congregation,

"as ye sow ~~xx~~ your good deeds so shall they blossom." The new preacher was the Reverend John Boothe.

The reason he was able to do ^e ~~that~~ trick for his parishioners was that he had spent six years touring the

59 United States as a professional magician. After six years he decided to devote his talents to religion. And when he accepted

his job at St. Paul's Church, he announced that he was going to pack the pews for Christianity if he had to pull ^{rabbits out of} ~~ribbons from~~ the organ stops.

Four women in the Church wept with emotion.

59 1/4 And now some Magic works from Hugh.