

The British announce ~~that~~ they've made a further retirement in Greece, <sup>an orderly</sup> withdrawal toward Athens. The Germans declare that

they've captured Thermopylae. They made their first claim to this effect ~~the~~ day before yesterday - ~~were~~ a bit premature. ~~about it.~~

It is evident that the British and Greeks put up a strong resistance at that historic pass, a resistance successful in accomplishing its purpose. The <sup>st</sup> purpose <sup>being</sup> - delay. The Nazi blitzkrieg was held up for three days at Thermopylae, and today's Berlin dispatch states that the legended strong point was taken, not by direct attack, but by a flanking operation.

Once more echoes of classic Greece are heard, this time in the Berlin bulletin - which says that the Nazi armored forces seized Thermopylae by the same maneuver which Xerxes, King of the Persians, used twenty-five hundred years ago. The ancient and heroic story tells how the Greeks, defending the famous pass, beat back ~~the~~ frontal assaults by the numberless hosts of Xerxes. But the Persians found a way to get around Thermopylae, by a rugged mountain trail - and outflanked the defenders. Whereupon, rather than retreat, Leonidas and his three hundred Spartans, fought to the end - surrounded.

Berlin has rumors that the Panzer units ~~which~~ are approaching Athens, and that the city may fall at any time. But, as for clear facts, it is impossible to say tonight just where the Hitler forces are in their advance along the narrow strip of land leading to Athens. However, it ~~does~~ seem <sup>s</sup> possible that <sup>the</sup> a strong rear guard resistance <sup>has given</sup> ~~may give~~ the British a good deal of success in removing troops and armament from Greece.

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Berlin sources intimate that a considerable portion of the British army may have already embarked and got <sup>ten</sup> away - large numbers of soldiers and quantities of equipment. The German story is that the British <sup>took</sup> ~~got~~ numbers of heavy tanks aboard - before <sup>violent</sup> ~~heavy~~ bombing disrupted the port facilities. ~~The Germans renew their claims of sinking more and more evacuation ships, a huge tonnage.~~

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Here's the latest - the first admission from the Allied side that the British are evacuating. A dispatch from Athens which tells how the Empire forces have been marching to ships with Greek crowds <sup>cheering and</sup> shouting farewell. The British are sailing for the Island of Crete, where the Greek Government has established itself.

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In the aerial battle over Britain, London reports that during the present month a hundred Nazi planes have been shot down in the night raiding - which would indicate that defense against ~~the~~ bombing-after-dark is improving. However, it is still a long way from being really effective - as is testified by the frightful havoc wrought by the air raiders of late, especially at the much blasted port of Plymouth.

In the war at sea, Berlin announces two U-boats have failed to return to port. Doubtless many others have been lost by British attack, but these two are particularly important. They were commanded by top-ranking U-boat captains. Some while ago, London reported that Lieutenant-Commander Kretschmer had been taken prisoner. This is confirmed today by Berlin, which relates that this particular submarine commander had piled up a record of sinking three hundred and thirteen thousand tons of British shipping - an ace of aces of the undersea. The commander of the second U-boat that failed to show up was ~~xxxxxx~~ credited by the Nazis with having destroyed two hundred and forty thousand tons - another ace.

It is being pointed out that the U-boat campaign depends to a large extent upon the ability of the commanders. In the last war, a great percentage of the submarine destruction was accomplished by a few U-boat aces. The bold and daring commander of the craft that prowls the sea depths is an exception, not easy to acquire. The loss of an ace commander is an especial blow to the U-boat forces.

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With the Battle of Greece virtually over, new attention turns to the Battle of the Atlantic. And in this the headline developments will be found today in the United States.

ROOSEVELT

The White House press conference today was keenly interesting - interesting in what the President said and in the inferences that we may derive, or try to derive. <sup>He was cryptic - rather mystifying</sup> Newspapermen <sup>began</sup> ~~promptly~~ <sup>by</sup> ~~referred~~ <sup>ing</sup> to the vigorous addresses made last night by Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. The head of the State Department declared in positive terms that all aid must be given to Britain, and, that some way must be found to get that aid to Britain. Secretary Knox was still stronger in his phraseology. "We cannot allow our goods to be sunk in the Atlantic," he cried. "We can no longer occupy the immoral and craven position of asking others to make all the sacrifice for this victory which we recognize to be essential to us," he declared.

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The declarations made by the two cabinet members ~~immedia~~ immediately raised the surmise - convoys. They were taken as a possible preliminary preparing public opinion for the use of American warships to protect cargoes of armament sent to Britain. So no wonder that the White House correspondents today promptly asked President Roosevelt - What about the Hull and Knox addresses?



The President replied that the two cabinet officers spoke for themselves in clear terms -- and they spoke for him as well. He agreed with them a hundred percent. Did the speeches indicate - convoys? Did they mean that American warships would be used to get aid to Britain across the ocean safely? He was asked. The President intimated -- no convoys. Such a measure was not being planned.

Whereupon he went into a discussion of the American neutrality patrol. He said the patrol is being extended - might reach out to include the seven seas if necessary.

The President was asked -- would the patrols far out to sea establish safe lanes through which aid to Britain could pass -- immune from attack? Would the patrol system be in effect -- convoying? To that the presidential answer was a quip. He said you couldn't turn a cow into a horse by simply calling it a horse.

He was asked to specify the difference between patrols and convoys, and replied that convoying was the use of warships to protect a group of merchant vessels from attack. Patrols, on the other hand, meant a reconnaissance to find out whether ships bent on attack were entering western neutrality waters. Scouting, that's what is is - detecting the presence of Nazi U-boats, surface raiders,

or warplanes.


The questioning at the press conference continued. What instructions have been issued to the boats of the neutrality patrol if they should see a British convoy being attacked? The President refrained from answering that one. He avoided a discussion of orders given to the patrol.

Now, trying to draw some inferences from all of this -- you'd suspect that an alternative is being sought for convoying. It might be a way around that much debated point. Maybe the alternative is to be found in some sort of operation of the neutrality patrol -- scouting the sea lanes for German attacking units, and giving word of these, information that might be useful to British convoys in foiling attack. A reconnoitering service of this sort might have an effect, without actually engaging us in hostilities. In all of this we may perhaps find the key to the next step in enabling aid to Britain to get across.

The President's declarations aroused an instant response in Britain -- an ~~xx~~ enthusiastic response. Official comment was lacking. It was pointed out that, after all, the White House

statement was fairly indefinite - vague. But the British people at large took it as another indication that there is to be American action in getting the aid across. This same British response had been made earlier in the day to reports of the speeches by Secretaries Hull and Knox last night. London expects American convoys -- or some other measure, to thwart the Nazi sea campaign. In Germany and Italy the reaction to the presidential statement was angry -- threats that American convoying would be met with torpedoes.

President Roosevelt made one vivid observation --





about Greenland. He suggested that Greenland, now under an American protectorate, may be occupied in part by Nazi forces.

He said he wasn't certain that there <sup>are</sup> ~~may be~~ any Germans in Greenland, but there might be. There was nothing positive about it. *But something is being done.*

The President took a fling at Lindbergh. He attacked the Lindbergh contention that Great Britain is going to be defeated, and repeated his own belief - that the British will win. He said that Lindbergh and other similar-minded people were only a minority in this country - a defeatest minority. He compared them to those Americans who in the Revolutionary War thought Washington ought to give up the fight - when things were going so bad <sup>ly</sup> at Valley Forge.

The President also referred to the Copperheads of the Civil War era. He said that Lindbergh and other isolationists were like Vallandigham. Now there's a name that brings back Civil War memories - Vallandigham, the Ohio Congressman who was the head of the Peace Party in the North. He thought the North couldn't win, and advocated a compromise - peace. He and his followers were called Copperheads. They were reviled by the Northern War Party which advocated war to the bitter end, and pressed <sup>for</sup> the utter defeat

of the South.

The President was asked why the army had not ordered Lindbergh into active service. He replied he wasn't sure whether or not the Lone Eagle had resigned his reserve commission as an army officer. Later, the newspapermen made a check at the War Department, where it was revealed that Lindbergh is still a colonel in the Air Corps Reserve.

President Roosevelt completed his excoriation of Lindbergh by saying he was sorry that there were people who thought like that and were in high places where they could write and talk.

## TAXES

Last night, in the news about the tax increase proposed by the administration, we heard that Congress had a plan of its own - an alternate proposal. The word was that this involved a less drastic boost of income taxes - something milder, ~~not so hard on the income tax payer.~~ All of which is borne out today. We are given a scheme of new taxation prepared by experts of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives.

According to the administration schedule, national defense and aid to Britain call for us to pay additional taxes to the extent of three and a half billion dollars. Of this sum, more than a billion and a half would be levied by an increase of income tax. The congressional plan agrees that three and a half billion dollars' worth of extra taxes shall be imposed, but puts the income boost at a lower figure, one billion, ~~and~~ one hundred million. A cut of more than four hundred million dollars - that much less than the administration proposes.

The congressional idea agrees with the administration reasoning that a surtax shall be imposed, in addition to the

regular scale of income taxes that we've already been paying.

The administration says - a surtax beginning at eleven per cent on all taxable income, and increasing as income goes up.

Congress suggests a surtax beginning at six per cent and

increasing thereafter. So <sup>tonight</sup> ~~the~~ net question stands - Are we to pay income surtaxes beginning at eleven per cent or at six per cent?

Today, the tax expert for the Ways and Means Committee put the argument in these terms: "To have the individual income taxes in the lower groups too high," said he, "may result in severely handicapping many individuals - in the discharge of debts already incurred and in the meeting of their ordinary expenses of subsistence."

Of course, the ~~smaller~~ smaller increase of income tax would have to be made up in other ways. How? The congressional plan provides for a **larger** boost of the excess profits tax placed on corporations. Also new and increased levies on articles that we use. Here are some examples: Five dollars a year on each automobile that we have; a federal tax of two cents a gallon on

gasoline; a one cent tax on each electric light bulb; five cents a pound on coffee and cocoa; ten cents a pound on tea; a cent a pound on sugar.

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The whole thing is causing plenty of anxious

discussion in Congress. The old question how to boost the taxes  
without antagonizing the voters.  
*agonized*



PROTEST

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There's an uprising against taxation - in Oklahoma. Down there in the southwest, the legislature is considering a proposal to put a state levy on chewing tobacco and snuff, ~~dipping snuff~~. Yes, they chew tobacco and ~~dip~~ still dip snuff down there in the old-fashioned way - they know the joys of taking a big bite out of a plug of tobacco - and then the mastication and expectoration! And then there's the <sup>old</sup> delight of snuff, a ~~wad~~ <sup>wad</sup> of the brown powder ~~cont~~ <sup>held</sup> ~~contained~~ under the lower lip and a stick ~~held~~ in one corner of the mouth, a twig of the sweet gum tree. Every once in a while you dig the twig down into the snuff and stir it up - that's the dipping, and commonly, a stream of brown snuff juice drips down each corner of the mouth, adding to the decorative effect of the face.

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Today in the Oklahoma Legislature up rose State Congressman Paul Webb - same name as Paul Webb the well known artist who specializes in hill-billy cartoons. Maybe it's the same guy. Anyway, Lawmaker Paul Webb today voiced a protest against the tax on dipping snuff and chewing tobacco. <sup>He was</sup> speaking, said he, in behalf of the grandmothers of eastern Oklahoma. <sup>Yes,</sup> Paul Webb would be for the

tobacco chewing, snuff-dipping grand

~~Yes, grandma chews tobacco, and is an artist at dipping snuff.~~

~~The State Congressman~~ <sup>He</sup> pleaded in affecting words:

"Visualize these grandmothers of ours," he cried, "just a-rockin'

and a-dippin' and a-paying' taxes on snuff!" It almost broke

his heart, and it almost breaks mine, and probably Hugh <sup>'s</sup> ~~James's~~

heart is breaking too.

grandmother there.

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