

L.J. - Sunoco. Thursday, Dec. 12, 1940.

EGYPT

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A most terrifying paradox of war is being waged on the Egyptian desert. The latest word from Rome is that the Italian commander, Marshal Graziani, has pulled the Libyan camel corps and desert cavalry riders out of the battle, and has thrown in a huge force of mechanized fighting equipment - one thousand ~~modernized~~ <sup>motorized</sup> units, says Rome<sup>e</sup>. These include mobile artillery, tanks and swift desert sleds on huge balloon tires.

Rome describes the scene of this clash of modernized war as being west of Sidi Barrani, and that fits in with yesterday's British announcement of <sup>the capture of that</sup> ~~the capture of Sidi Barrani~~ ~~the~~ forward base of the Italian advance into Egypt. The Italian communique further states that Graziani is ~~driving to~~ trying to <sup>restore the</sup> ~~restore~~ communications ~~with~~ that the British cut. <sup>which agrees</sup> ~~This fits in~~ with the assumption that the British <sup>have</sup> isolated a large Italian force <sup>the</sup> in Sidi Barrani area. <sup>TR</sup> Prime Minister Churchill in the House of Commons today spoke of Fascist units holding out against violent attacks. He stated the probability of three Italian divisions being broken up, cut to

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pieces. The latest British estimate of prisoners taken is -  
twenty thousand. All of this seems to indicate that in  
capturing Sidi Barrani the British surrounded large Fascist  
units - some captured and some still resisting. And a desperate  
attempt is being made to relieve <sup>them.</sup> ~~The~~ main Italian army, in  
~~the~~ Libya, hurling a full force of mechanized equipment, a thousand  
motorized units - says Rome.

The Italian account gives a fantastic picture of the  
Egyptian battle. None of the usual phenomena of the desert -  
no camel corps, no wild riding native horsemen. ~~They're out.~~  
Instead, it's an ultra-modern melee of tanks, armored cars and  
machines on balloon tires. Swift movement across the sands,  
wild clashes <sup>in</sup> ~~with~~ clouds of dust. The battle order is so  
confused that Britons and Fascists, in their armored war  
machines, find themselves tangled in a maze - such a maze that  
the crews leap out and attack each other with hand grenades.

And the desert road along the coast is being shelled by the  
British fleet. *The latest British report is that  
the Italians are retreating in  
confusion.*

Such is tonight's picture of ultra-modern battle

on the ancient desert - those sands over which eternity seems to  
*Land of oases, palm trees and wild Semiasis*  
have brooded. The desert that time forgot; - now ~~is~~ brought down  
to date by the fury of ~~war~~ *machine-age-war.*

Meanwhile, in Italy things are restive. The Italians,  
behind the Fascist censorship, have become aware of defeat -  
*Albania where the Greeks still advance*  
the humiliating state of affairs in ~~Greece~~ and the sharp and  
dashing success scored by the British in Egypt. Today there was  
official Fascist talk against Marshal Badoglio, the Italian  
Commander-in-Chief who resigned. There's angry newspaper denial  
of the supposition that Badoglio was opposed to the Greek  
adventure. One prominent Fascist writer puts it this way -  
obviously meaning Badoglio:- "A certain person who should  
keep quiet," he writes, "is saying in drawing rooms and to  
friends on hunting trips that he did not want the Greek  
campaign *that* such undertakings needed a greater number of  
divisions. It should be known that this same person had  
promised to carry out the action with forces already stationed  
in Albania. Anything to the contrary is untrue."

*tribes and ~~the~~ Roman ruins.*

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This kind of snapping in the official press indicates an uneasy state of public opinion in Italy. This! - as all the world is wondering about the condition of Italian morale. (Is the Fascist regime about to collapse? Is Italy about to be knocked out of the war? Or will defeat mean that Nazi Germany will take control in Italy? That is a possibility to be reckoned with - remembering an analogy of that former World War, when Austrian defeats were followed by the Germans taking control of the Austrian army.

LOTHIAN

The news from London today immediately brought rumors bearing on the question - "Who will be the successor to Lord Lothian as British Ambassador to Washington?" Names are mentioned as possibilities - prominent names. Anthony Eden - for years an ace figure in the London Government. ★ Oliver Stanley - who was President of the Board of Trade in the Chamberlain Cabinet. Malcolm MacDonald - the Minister of Health, who is a son of the late Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald.

It is to be observed that these political personalities <sup>all</sup> are or have been members of the British Cabinet. In London parliamentary circles the conjecture is - that Prime Minister Churchill, in nominating a successor to Lord Lothian, is likely to select a member of the Cabinet - present member or past member. This is a vivid reflection of what Britain thinks of the post of British Ambassador to Washington. To Britain at war, it is perhaps second in importance only to the post of Prime Minister. The very circumstances of the death of Lord Lothian dramatize this importance.

Last night a momentous declaration was made, a

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declaration of historic importance in these troubled times of ours. And that declaration can almost be called - words from the tomb. The statement was read before a gathering of the American Farm Bureau Association at Baltimore. It came, from *the* ~~British~~ Ambassador, Lord Lothian. But it was not delivered by him personally. It was explained that the Ambassador was - "slightly indisposed." So his address was read by the counselor of the British Embassy, Neville ~~MA~~ Butler. This occurred during the dinner period last evening. At that very hour Lord Lothian was ill unto death, and a few hours later he passed away. So we can almost say - words from the tomb.

These words bespoke the British belief that the war against Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy can be won, and can only be won, with the aid of the United States. (The statement by Lord Lothian pictured a grim year to come for Great Britain. NineteenForty-One, he said, will be a time of trial and ordeal. A victory could not be expected until Nineteen Forty-two. ~~He foresaw dark days ahead, days which could eventually be brightened by aid from the United States. In every respect,~~

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Lothian - 2-a.

Let us <sup>listen to his</sup> ~~hear these~~ serious words:- "We have no illusions about

Nineteen Forty-One," he said, "It's going to be a hard and dangerous year. Our shipping losses have recently been formidable. In one week British Allied and Neutral losses were nearly two hundred thousand tons. But we're not in the least dismayed. ~~With~~ With help from you we're confident that we can win and win decisively in Nineteen Forty Two."

In every respect this sombre statement may be classed under the mournful head of -- last words.

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mournful heading of last words.~~

The death of Lord Lothian was not announced today until hours after the event. Then the news emanated from the coroner in Washington, not from the Ambassador's ~~off~~ physician. We are told that no physician attended him - he was a Christian Scientist. The malady from which he died was uremic infection.

(His passing evokes universal expressions of grief - with President Roosevelt leading a long series of tributes. \*Lord Lothian was one of the most popular ambassadors Washington ever knew - liberal minded, exceedingly democratic.) In his later life, he was one of the top ranking peers of ~~England,~~ <sup>Britain,</sup> but his beginning was very different. He made his way in the British diplomatic service, but was without title or land until middle age. Then he inherited the peerage left by his cousin, the Tenth Marquess of Lothian. With that peerage went vast estates, four castles, and a whole string of titles - ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Marquess, Viscount, an Earl twice, a Baronet four times.

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His first prominence in the international spotlight came when he was right-hand man to Prime Minister Lloyd George in the World War. He accompanied Lloyd George to the Peace Conference, and was a principal lieutenant to the brilliant Welshman in the negotiations that culminated in the Versailles Treaty.

*TP*  
I myself ~~met~~ made the acquaintance of Lord Lothian at that time - in ~~the~~ Versailles days. Subsequently I encountered him again on various occasions. The last time during the coronation

festivities in London. I met him <sup>then at a weekend at</sup> ~~at an entertainment at~~

Lady Astor's place at Sandwich, <sup>on</sup> the south coast, an area now <sup>being</sup> ~~shelled and bombed so~~ ~~being bombed~~ <sup>TP</sup> ferociously by the Nazis. To me he seemed like a <sup>highest type of</sup> perfect example of the British diplomat and aristocrat - ~~yet~~

always the completely democratic peer. Perhaps his chief mental quality was a fine sense of justice. He thought that Germany had been treated ~~too~~ <sup>and unwisely</sup> harshly in the period after the war.

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He was reputed to be a member of ~~the~~ <sup>so-called</sup> Lady Astor's Cliveden set, and to have favored a reconciliation with Nazi Germany. But

after Hitler's broken word at Munich and the seizure of

Czechoslovakia, Lord Lothina became one of the strongest anti-Nazis in England -- his feeling of justice outraged.

There are reports in Washington that the body of the Ambassaodr, the Marquis of Lothian -- may be sent back to Engladn in a United States crusier. That would be a striking thing -- an American cruiser traversing the war zone!

BRITISH AID

It was made official today that the administration would do nothing about British credits until Congress has acted. Here's a statement made by Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau. He refers to the Johnson Act which forbids the extension of credits in the United States to any nation that has defaulted on its war debt, and he says: "I certainly would not be a party to a loan to Great Britain or any other country, if it comes under the Johnson Act - without being directed by Congress." To this he added - "Furthermore, nobody has asked me for a loan."

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JULIAN

Up in Canada it looked for a while as if military glory might fall to the lot of Colonel Hubert Fauntleroy Julian, the Black Eagle of Harlem. **He** offered his services to the Royal Air Force for fighting and flying in the Battle of Britain. So they proceeded to give him a physical test. The Black Eagle is forty-three, and sometimes even the ~~hardiest~~ <sup>hardiest</sup> warrior has to get a little flabby and physically not so fit at that age.

**But** Colonel Hubert Fauntleroy Julian passed the examination with complete success - all those complicated tests they make of bodily health, eyesight, muscular coordination, etcetra.

So all the Black Eagle had to do was to pass an actual flying test, show how skillful he was in the handling of an airplane. Well, the Colonel has had a lot of experience. He first acquired fame when he started on a trans-Atlantic flight to Africa and cracked up in a swamp on Long Island. He ~~he~~ achieved headlines when he became an Ethiopian ace in the Flying Corps of Haile Selassie, and proceeded to demolish a plane right in the presence of the King of Kings. He has made the front page in every recent war, and only lately

challenged Hitler's Chief Lieutenant Goering to an airplane duel over the English Channel.

Such was the background as the Black Eagle took off at Ottawa to show his aviation prowess in a practice flight. With him flew an officer of the Royal Canadian Air Force - and that was lucky, so the story goes. Today's account from Ottawa tells of a nerve tingling moment, in which the Canadian officer had to seize the controls from the Black Eagle - to prevent a crack up. It looked like a catastrophe, until the officer took over and handled the plane himself. Thanks to that fact, they landed safely - and the Black Eagle is still waiting for his Canadian wings.

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NATIONAL GUARDS

There's to be a delay in putting the next batch of National  
Guards <sup>men</sup> into the Army. According to the schedule ninety-six thousand  
of the State soldiers are to be taken into active service between  
January Sixth and April First. However, there will not be enough  
housing to accommodate them. Army camp accommodations won't be  
ready -- there's been a delay in the construction/work. So the  
induction of the ninety-six thousand will be <sup>held up---</sup> ~~delayed~~ so said  
Secretary of War Stimson today. How long will the delay be?  
Between one week and two and a half months, said the Secretary.

DIVORCE

When a lady has had three husbands you'd think she would know something about marriage. In fact, one trial would seem to be enough to teach anybody plenty. However, matrimony is like other things - you've got to give it a little time. Witness the case of Virginia Hill, a twenty-three year old oil heiress. Today in New York, Virginia was suing for divorce from her third husband. And she says she's all set to acquire a fourth. After being married three times, <sup>she still</sup> ~~she~~ wants to find out what it's ~~like~~ like to be married, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~long enough to any one man to know~~ She's wistful and even soulful about it, and explains it this way:- "I haven't been married long enough to any one man to know what it's all about." So she intends to be wedded again - for at least two or three days this time.

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## BANANAS

Here's one of those grotesque events in common life - worth telling because they sound so odd. In Brooklyn, a banana peddler wanted a hot plate for his kitchen stove. He had no money, but he had bananas, so he went to a store selling stoves and offered to make a trade - some bananas for a hot plate. There was bargaining and dickering and finally the stove dealer agreed to swap a hot plate for a big bunch of bananas. The banana man thereupon demanded a gas hose to go with the hot plate. The stove dealer said he'd have to have some more bananas for the gas hose - or at least a few pineapples. But the banana man had no pineapples. And that's when the fight started. As a result of the hot plate-banana-gas hose controversy, the stove dealer was stabbed and injured - and tonight the banana man is cooling off in the civic refrigerator - the cooler.

While Hugh here is all hot and bothered with a message he has for you.