

C.I. - Sunoco. Friday, May 3, 1940.

ARMISTICE

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The latest tonight is - an armistice between the Norwegian army and the Germans in the region of Namsos. The Norse units, after days of bitter battling, on the Steinkjer front, have surrendered.

This account comes from the United Press correspondent on the scene. He quotes the Norwegian Commander as declaring that there was nothing to do but call off the fighting - to avert "further useless bloodshed." The Norwegian General, in announcing the armistice to his soldiers, told them that the Allies had evacuated Namsos without consulting the Norwegian command. He charged that the Norse troops were left unsupported. All this comes in a cable from the United Press correspondent ~~in~~ in the Namsos area.

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Earlier in the day, there were stories of continued Norwegian resistance. These told that the fortress of Hegra was holding out. This stronghold near Trondheim has been resisting Nazi assaults ever since the invasion of Norway began. A mere hundred and fifty defenders - that handful of Norse warriors still refusing to surrender, - so we were told.

WAR

London tonight officially confirms what was insistently reported all day - the Allied evacuation of the port of Namsos.

*Which*

~~This~~ completes the British and French ~~via~~ withdrawal from central

Norway, ~~and leaves them with only the Allied units around~~

~~northern Narvik - which port is still held by the Germans.~~

Today's communique issued by the British War Office reads as follows:- "The withdrawal and reembarkation at Namsos was carried out with complete success and without loss." That phraseology is a case of making an unfortunate event sound as well as possible.

Reports from the Scandinavian area, however, state that the Allied ~~re~~<sup>em</sup>barkation was made under heavy air attack. This phrase is used - "a ~~via~~ hail of machine gun bullets."

Another dispatch describes the retirement of the Allies in these words:- "so hastily that much of their equipment was abandoned in the streets and also along the quay."

An American eye-witness at Namsos states that the British and French got most of their equipment away from the fighting front all right, but had to abandon a good deal of it

in the streets of Namsos. This - because of the constant Nazi air attack.

It is apparent that the retreat from Namsos was planned ~~well~~ in advance, along with yesterday's withdrawal from Andalsnes, further to the south. The French units evacuated Namsos yesterday - the British following today. The most plausible reports seem to be that the retiring units are going to Narvik, the iron ore port two hundred miles north of the Arctic Circle, <sup>to</sup> ~~and~~ join the fight against the Germans there. However, another rumor states the destination ~~is~~ a small Norwegian port <sup>to</sup> the north of Namsos - the Allies to take up a position there. <sup>TP they</sup> ~~The Allies~~ are continuing the Norwegian campaign, but ~~they're~~ doing it away up in the north. It may be that Great Britain will not permit Norway to become a mere sideshow, as was promised by Prime Minister Chamberlain yesterday. But it will be a decidedly Arctic ~~big~~ show.

What about ~~the~~ Norwegians? Stories from Namsos tell of Norse units fighting to cover the Allied retreat. Other rumors say that the fugitive government of King Haakon is opening negotiations with the Germans. But this is denied. Also - we hear

EUROPE

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Today's second Allied retreat only redoubles the result ~~of the~~ of the first withdrawal yesterday. It increases the scope of the failure of the Franco-British campaign in Central Norway. It puts the southern half of that Scandinavian kingdom more firmly in the clutch of the Nazis. It emphasizes the strategic element -- Hitler's control of the eastern coasts of the North Sea -- sea bases and air bases. <sup>TP</sup> Then there's the effect <sup>on</sup> ~~of~~ the Allied nations. Yesterday's event caused ~~there to be~~ <sup>in</sup> predicted in London that the Chamberlian cabinet might be ousted -- unless prompt good news came from Norway. We've just heard the news that came today. It increases the prospect of parliamentary trouble for the Prime Minister. On Tuesday <sup>Chamberlain</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>TP</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~faces~~ the commons for a full debate on the Norwegian failure. Things ~~were~~ even more precarious for Premier Renaud in Paris. He had a slender hold on the Chamber of Deputies to begin with, and the Norwegian affair is not likely to land him any strength. <sup>His</sup> cabinet may be overthrown.

<sup>TP</sup> What about the countries to the south -- the Mediterranean and Balkan areas? ~~(It's being said everywhere that the Allied inability to give effective help to the Norwegians will put the southern neutrals just that much more under the influence of Nazi Germany.~~

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London and Paris are worried about the possibility of another swift Hitler stroke -- to the south. Berlin today made noisy charges -- that the Allies were planning to extend the war to the Balkans and Mediterranean. This may possibly mean the familiar Nazi strategy of accusing the other fellow of what you're about to do yourself.

but The number one center of uncertainty continues to be -- Italy. Not that there was any particular agitation in Mussolini's land today, but, some might consider the condition one of ominous quiet. ) Meanwhile powerful squadrons of the Allied fleet <sup>s steamed</sup> ~~streamed~~ into the harbor of Alexandria today, in the naval redistribution announced by Prime Minister Chamberlain yesterday -- keeping an eye on Mussolini. ~~was~~ Italian naval and air units are reported to be concentrated at the Dodacene Islands, -- those <sup>ee</sup> ~~islands~~ of Greece which are Italian owned -- and are <sup>strategically</sup> ~~strategically~~ situated in the Eastern Mediterranean.

ITALY

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There's the busiest kind of diplomatic activity between the United States and Italy, but there's also the profoundest kind of secrecy. The nearest thing to information was procured from President Roosevelt today, but it was the kind of illumination that kept things in the dark. The President stated that the Washington Government is working actively to keep the European War from spreading to Italy and the Mediterranean. He referred to the general policy of this nation as one trying to keep the conflict from extending beyond its present bounds. The full weight of American influence is directed to that end. Beyond that, the President would say nothing - no explanation of the kind of moves our State Department may be making in the direction of Rome.

The President was asked about the story we had yesterday - the report that the United States has informed Mussolini that American shipping may be withdrawn from the Mediterranean. ~~The~~

<sup>His</sup> President's answer <sup>was!</sup> ~~was,~~ in effect, "No comment."

Unable to get anything much at the White House, the newspaper men shot some questions at that monument of silence,

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Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles. I don't suppose they had much hope, in which case they weren't greatly disappointed. Welles answered - "no comment." It is known, however, that he took part in a conference that President Roosevelt had with the Italian Ambassador to Washington. This happened along with <sup>the</sup> conferences in Rome between American Ambassador Phillips and Premier Mussolini. Phillips also ~~has~~ consulted with Count Ciano - twice, and he had a talk with the British Charge d'Affaires. The report in Rome is that our Ambassador has sent to Washington an extended report telling the result of these various diplomatic talks - a report ten thousand words long.

This afternoon Ambassador Phillips went to Florence to see Myron Taylor, President Roosevelt's personal representative at the Vatican. <sup>The Myron</sup> Taylor <sup>have long had a home in Florence.</sup> ~~in turn,~~ has been in conference with prominent Vatican ecclesiastics. This, of course, ties in with the efforts that Pope Pius the Twelfth has been making to keep Italy from going into the war. And that's in accord with American policy as expressed by <sup>the</sup> President, ~~Roosevelt.~~ Taylor!

## BOMBING

A picture of sky bombing was given to us today in the log of an American merchant ship. S.S. FLYING FISH was in the Norwegian harbor of Bergen, when the Germans took the port.

And the FLYING FISH remained there during subsequent fighting.

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The ship returned home today, and N.B.C. had quite a radio scoop in putting the captain and members of the crew on the air. They told about the German seizure, and about British air raids that followed. A Nazi cruiser and a munitions ship were sunk by bombs.

Here's how the war of sea and sky is described in the ship's log. It tells how early in the morning Allied planes flew over Bergen and rained bombs on Nazi naval vessels in the harbor. "One German cruiser," says the log, "was hit amidships between its funnels. Clouds of smoke and flames were seen to rise from the cruiser, and an explosion was heard." The log of the FLYING FISH, continues the story in nautical terms:- "The cruiser," it says, "began listing to forward and sinking by the head, as flames rose to a height of about a hundred feet. The cruiser's head sank deeper and deeper," the story goes on, "making a forty-five degree starboard list, her stern projecting into the air, showing her propellers."



BOMBING - 2

A Nazi supply ship, crammed with munitions, was hit and blew up. It burned for a day and a half with explosions occurring all the time.\*

DEFENSE

*The* President ~~Roosevelt~~ had his say today concerning the problem of bombing plane versus battleship. I suppose we can picture <sup>F. D. R.</sup> Franklin Delano Roosevelt speaking, not so much as President, but more specifically - as the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States. He was queried about the statement made by Secretary of the Navy Edison, who said that at the present moment the war plane enjoyed a temporary advantage over the battleship.

*The* President ~~Roosevelt~~ said he thought that any such temporary advantage of the sky over the sea would be offset by the development of new defensive armor and armament for the battleship. Progress along that line will even the difference between ships of the air and ships of the ocean. His military philosophy was that offensive and defensive weapons would follow the same process of evolution which they've always followed - attack having the edge, and then defense catching up.

He pointed to Civil War experience, when the MONITOR defeated the MERRIMAC. That caused the MONITOR to be hailed as an invincible weapon of naval warfare. Presently, however, the MONITOR

revealed plenty of weakness and turned out to be unseaworthy - just a ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ cheese box on a raft. He also cited first World War experience when the German U-boat was away ahead as a weapon of attack. But as the war went on, an effective defense was developed, which greatly cut down the submarine peril.

Today, in a similar way, the evolutionary laws of attack and defense apply to the conflict of aircraft and surface craft - a conflict that has been waged so intensively in Norwegian waters. *That's the presidential theory.*

What about the aircraft defense as applied to our own new warships? In Congressional circles it has been suggested that we ought to delay our warship building program - until the problem of protection against sky attack has been studied further. The chiefs of the Navy are admitting that fleet units already planned will have to be redesigned to make them safe against bombers.

Notwithstanding this, <sup>the</sup> President ~~Roosevelt~~ stated today that there will be no delay in our warship building program. New devices of aircraft defense will be employed - but no delay in building.

The President said that we are learning things from war

experience in Europe, and our armament experts are taking to heart the lessons learned from the military clash abroad. For example - our own fighting airplanes need improvement - heavier guns, bullet-proof gasoline tanks, armored protection, ~~for crews operating the planes.~~

While <sup>F. D. R,</sup> ~~the President~~ was saying this, General <sup>Henry</sup> ~~Arnold~~, Chief of the Army Air Corps, was telling much the same thing to a Senate sub-committee. He tackled the question of how American built warplanes used by the Allies were standing up against the military aircraft of Nazi Germany. He stated that the American planes had the advantage of having a more durable construction, longer range, and the ability to fly further per gallon of gasoline. They are also more maneuverable and have a longer life. <sup>TR</sup> On the other hand, American aircraft builders must adopt some of the features embodied in the Nazi fighting planes. They must have a heavier firing power - like thirty-seven millimeter guns. These are small, rapid firing cannon, no mere machine guns. Our planes must <sup>have</sup> ~~be of~~ better armor to shield the crews from bullets. And they must have the kind of gasoline tank which is made non-leakable by the use of rubber - so the

gas won't leak out through bullet holes and catch fire.

These aircraft features are important elements in the strength of Nazi German air power, and General Arnold said that most of them will be embodied in the nineteen hundred combat planes which were recently ordered by the <sup>U.S.</sup> Army.

General Arnold made one statement which has a significant sound. <sup>He said</sup> ~~He stated~~ that some American built planes, used by the British and French, have already been equipped with the needed improvements. And these, he stated, show ~~themselves~~ themselves capable of holding their own with the German war planes. The <sup>from</sup> ~~in~~ inference <sup>is</sup> this would seem to be that the Nazi fighting craft until now have had at least some degree of superiority.

FARLEY

Postmaster Jim Farley grew lyrical today - and why not? He wasn't talking about politics. On the subject of election probabilities, Jim is largely statistical. The theme of the Farley eloquence was - "My Old Kentucky Home." Ah, how soulful!

Today in fact the Postmaster General was at "My Old Kentucky Home." He presided at a ceremony in the town of Bardstown. It was there that Stephen Foster composed his immortal ballad - "We will sing one song," and so on. The occasion was the release of the first issue of commemorative postage stamps ~~in~~ in honor of Stephen Foster. They were put on sale at the Bardstown Post Office - by <sup>the</sup> PM.G. himself.

*— non political of course. It*  
And naturally Jim Farley made a speech ~~of course it~~ would have been more appropriate if he had sung a song - and you know what song. Just imagine Postmaster Jim raising his voice and singing in a good old-fashioned Irish tenor:- "Weep no more my lady, weep no more today." That would be so soulful that it would make us all weep.

*8 1/2*  
As it was, Jim came mighty near to singing - so lyrical was his flowing prose. Said he:- "Our musicians, perhaps more than

any other class of men, have made us inwardly happy." Yes,

*Like the happiness of a successful candidate.*  
that deep inward happiness, Jim! <sup>1</sup> How we feel it - except when

the jazz band begins to blast our ears. But Stephen Foster, bless

his memory, did not write jazz. <sup>So lets</sup> ~~we~~ all breathed a sigh of ~~so~~ ~~with~~ ~~all~~ ~~breath~~ ~~and~~ ~~sight~~ ~~of~~

approval, <sup>goes</sup> as the Farley eloquence ~~went~~ on with these words:

"Of all the poets and minstrels," said he, "none has done more than

Stephen Foster to make us more simply, more universally, aware of

our deeper national emotions." *And there's no electioneering in that, now, is there?*  
*So much* ~~That~~ from Jim; ~~and~~ now something from Hugh James.

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