

L.J. - Lunoco. Friday, Dec. 6, 1940.

BADOGGIO

Two things happened in dramatic juxtaposition today.

The Greeks captured the Italian base at Porto Edda and Marshal

Badoglio resigned as chief of staff of the Italian army.

~~Let's look at the two events separately and then together~~

Porto Edda was a dominating Italian base in Albania - and a thing of especial Fascist pride. They built a new and modern harbor there, and renamed it after Mussolini's daughter - Edda. She has long been known as the Duce's fondest pride - more so than any of his sons. She is reputed to have more influence than anyone else over the Blackshirt Dictator. Edda Mussolini married Count Ciano, and her father made him Italian Foreign Minister. So the harbor, ^{named after her} ~~of Porto Edda~~ was of sentimental, as well as military, consequence to the Fascists - it's fall a blow to pride. After reports for days of the capture of the place, this has now occurred - and the Greeks are pressing ^{hard on} ~~after~~ the retreating Italians.

The resignation of Marshal Badoglio may readily seem to be connected with the fall of Porto Edda, ~~the~~ ^{the} latest and a striking mark of failure in the Italian attempt against Greece,

and it's common enough for a commander to resign when his armies are defeated. Indeed, it was promptly said today that Badoglio was out because of Greece. But there's a good deal of opinion of a different sort. ^{It's also} ~~It's~~ said that Badoglio has been at odds with Mussolini because of the conduct of the war. And some hint of this is to be had from Rome. The Italian capital gives but meager explanation, saying, however, that Badoglio had been intending to resign for some time. On top of this, there are reports that as chief of staff he opposed the hasty and unprepared adventure in Greece - which Mussolini ordered.

The history of Badoglio is significant. A score of years ago, when the Fascists marched on Rome, Badoglio was the General who said to King Victor Emanuel that if he were given permission he would clear away the Fascists with his guns. But the King said - no bloodshed, and refused to sign the order. So Mussolini took power - and what did he do about the General who had offered to turn his guns on the Fascists? He retained Badoglio as a commander of the army. He seemed to value the impersonal attitude of the professional soldier who was ready to

obey a command to act, no matter against whom. The Duce and the chief of staff became quite good friends, it seems; - though Badoglio never became a Fascist. He still remained merely the soldier. It was he upon whom Mussolini called to take over personally the campaign in Ethiopia and defeat the Ethiopian army. His status in Italy became that of the Number One military man, vast in prestige. With all this in mind, it's not hard to believe that Badoglio disagreed with Mussolini on war policy; and especially the ill-starred attempt to invade Greece. ~~and~~ So he resigned.

The German version is that Italy's greatest soldier is out so that there may be better collaboration between the Fascists and the Nazis. Badoglio is succeeded by General Cavallero, who has taken a prominent part in staff talks ^{with} of the German army. He is regarded as being altogether in favor of complete Italian collaboration with Hitler. Another version represents him as being as much of a politician as a general. And the question is asked - How will the Italian army regard it, a hundred per cent soldier giving way to a half politician? The official Fascist

attitude is that the change in commanders means a greater effort in the war against the Greeks, a maximum drive to retrieve the situation there.

P.S. Mussolini was made a grandfather again today.

~~His~~ Daughter Orsola presented him with a new granddaughter, as the Greeks took the port so proudly named after daughter Edda.

DAMAGE

New stories of famous places hit by Nazi bombing. ^{one,} ~~mentioned~~
the Greenwich Observatory. London reveals today that both
explosive and incendiary missiles recently damaged that far-famed
sanctuary of astronomy -and longitude. Greenwich, through which
meridian zero runs. Greenwich, which gives the standard of time
for navigation. The observatory is another of the creations of
the famous architect, Sir Christopher Wren - another of his
masterpieces to be hit by the bombing. The great revolving globe
was damaged - also the telescope. And the clock that gives us -
Greenwich time.

In Scotland, the place mentioned is Holyrood, castle
of Scottish kings of old. ^Q ~~The~~ Nazi air raid ^{on} ~~hit~~ Edinburgh.
High explosive missed the castle, but blasted the lawn of Holyrood.
That lawn holds the tombs of the kings and queens of Scotland who
lived and reigned many centuries ago. The explosion excavated
the usual big bomb crater, and dug out the bones of monarchs of
the dim days of the Scottish past.

SEA BATTLE

There's no further word today about the German sea raider that fought an engagement with the British auxiliary cruiser. The wandering prowler simply disappeared in the immense space of the South Atlantic.

The battle took place off the coast of South America, in or near the Pan-American neutrality zone. The British converted liner, CARNARVON CASTLE, spied the raider - a prowler disguised as a commonplace merchant ship. There was a blaze of cannon fire, shots exchanged at long range. The CARNARVON CASTLE was hit and damaged - ^{with} ~~some~~ casualties. It is not known whether the raider sustained the impact of shells. The apparent innocent merchant vessel made off at high speed. The British converted cruiser gave chase in vain.

So now British warships are on the hunt - seeking a ^{speck} ~~mighty small boat~~ on the immensity of the sea. Not easy to find - ~~that~~ was proved in the case of the German merchant ship raiders in the World War; ~~we remember~~ the WOLFE and the MOEUVE, which prowled and destroyed, month after month. But of course there's one thing different now - the prevalence of aviation. Scouting planes carried aboard warships should make it easier to hunt down a lone wolf of the sea.

BRITISH AID

In Washington today was held the scheduled conference between the Under-Secretary of the British Treasury, Sir Frederick Phillips, and the Secretary of the United States Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr. Afterward Sir Frederick Phillips told newspapermen that the subject of his conversation was, ⁱⁿ his words: "the state of British resources and the cost of supplies." And he added that he is going to get up a balance sheet of British finances to present to Secretary Morgenthau.

He stated that in today's conference he did not ask for a United States loan to Great Britain - the talk did not concern policies to be pursued. Just a statement of facts, the way money matters stand for the Empire. And he added that there was, in his words: "no mention made of World War debts."

DEEGAN

The State Department in Washington today received formal notice of the case of Mrs. Elizabeth Deegan, clerk at the American Embassy in Paris. She's under arrest, held by the German authorities ⁱⁿ ~~under~~ mysterious circumstances. Elizabeth Deegen is from North Carolina - daughter of a one-time prominent attorney of Ashville. She's a granddaughter of the late Senator Pritchard of North Carolina.

The report to the State Department is made by the Paris Embassy. It does not reveal the charge that is made against Mrs. Deegan. It merely relates this rather singular series of events:-"On the morning of December First," says the State Department, "two German civilians, presumably members of the German secret police, called at the ~~D~~ apartment of Mrs. Deegan and invited her to go to a prison to visit one or more British prisoners. ~~This," continues the statement, "was the second time within a week that Mrs. Deegan had been invited to visit acquaintances at the prison. Later in the day she returned under escort to her apartment to obtain warm clothing.~~ In the evening a friend of hers received a message from an unspecified source,

stating that Mrs. Deegan

~~that she~~ was comfortably lodged, and that while it would be

impossible for her to be at the office on December Second, she

would doubtless report for work on December Third. Mrs. Deegan,"

the State Department concludes, "did not report for work on

December Third."

American diplomatic officials in Paris are investigating the case, and the report is that Elizabeth Deegan of North Carolina is a prisoner of the German secret police - charged with a plot to help British soldiers to escape from the part of France occupied by the Germans. They say she's accused ^{there in Paris} of having organized an underground railway to enable Britishers to get away. This evokes the sinister recollection of World War Heroine, Nurse Edith Cavell, who was condemned and executed by the Germans on the same sort of charge - helping British soldiers to escape from German occupied territory.

A plan to eliminate Fifth Column elements from national defense industries is soon to be presented to President Roosevelt and the Department of Justice. The one who'll do the presenting is Congressman Dies of the Dies Committee. He said today that his plan might call for the changing of the National Labor Relations Act to permit the fifth column to be checked out of defense.

The dispute between the Dies Committee on one hand and the President and the Department of Justice on the other, seems to have been settled satisfactorily - judging by what the Congressman said. "The best news I've had in years," he declared, "is word from Washington that our Committee has reached a complete agreement with the Department of Justice. It means, " he added, "that we will get the cooperation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation that I've been seeking for three years."

GAS

This might sound like a sensational headline - a gas ~~x~~ attack on a shipbuilding plant doing national defense work.

15) Today, at Tacoma, ^{a number of} ~~twelve~~ shipyard workers were knocked out and narrowly escaped with their lives when a cloud of poison gas rolled down. A greenish gray noxious choking vapor - chlorine. The men broke into violent convulsive coughing, as the poison gas attacked them. Medical help came quickly and they were hurried to hospitals.

It was found that a cloud of chlorine had escaped from a nearby chemical company. Some kind of an electrical process through a broken pipe generated a huge quantity of chlorine, which escaped ~~x~~ and the strangling gray green cloud shifted over the shipyard.

FLIGHT

The mercy flight ordered by President Roosevelt began today, when a big army bomber took off from New York -- carrying Senora Carlos Davila, wife of the former president of Chile. Senora Davila is ill, and the doctor said that this northerly winter in the United States was doing her no good -- the frost and snow. So he prescribed summer. He advised her to depart from this latitude as quickly as possible and go back to her own native Chile, down below the Equator where it's mid-summer. This came to the attention of President Roosevelt and he ordered that a United States army bomber should fly the wife of the former President of Chile all the way to the land of the Southern Cross.

The flight was to have been begun yesterday, but was delayed by the bad weather. Now they are off -- winging south.

BIBLE

Next Sunday will be International Bible Sunday. And the bible has now been translated into one hundred and eighty -three languages.

ALPHABET

The alphabet is a simple thing, reminiscent of sweet and innocent childhood. There are alphabet blocks, alphabet agencies, and alphabet noodles. And today we have - an alphabet love suit. *Here's the A.B.C. of it!* ~~Now what have the a,b,c's to do with the troubles of romance and moonlit sentiment brought into court? It's this way.~~

At Philadelphia, a young lady who teaches in a music school sued a professor of music who is on the faculty of an exclusive Philadelphia college for women. He's also married. So, to be discreet, the court decreed that the names of the parties must be kept secret - never mentioned in the proceedings. They were designated as "Miss A.B." and "Mr. C.D." And that certainly is alphabetic. Romantic dialogue might go like this - "I love you, Miss A.B." To which the lady responds - "This is so sudden, Mr. C.D." Then I suppose we could drag in old man E. F., if not Dr. G.H. All the way to the Reverend X.Y.Z.

Anyway, Miss A.B. complained that she and Mr. C.D. were engaged to be married, and then Mr. C.D. went ahead and married somebody else. Presumably - Miss P.D.Q. That sounds like a breach of promise case - but a Pennsylvania statute forbids

what are called heart balm suits. So Miss A.B. based her case on different grounds. She demanded that she be reimbursed for what she spent for bridal clothes and for what the legal papers called, "maintaining herself as a prospective bride." It might seem to be difficult to figure the expense of a girl maintaining herself as a prospective bride, but the sum demanded was ten thousand dollars. Miss A.B. asking that much from Mr. C.D.

Today the judge handed down a decision. He said -

it's still a breach of promise ~~m~~ suit. You can slice it as thin

So he did not say O.K. to Miss A.B.
as you like, but it's still heart balm. ~~So~~ He dismissed the

alphabet love suit - from A to Z.

PUNISHMENT

Some old-fashioned justice was administered at Berkeley, California, today - an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Four students of the University of California were up before the court. They were charged with malicious mischief committed during a football rally that preceded the Stanford-California game. The malicious mischief consisted of leaning out of a window of an upper floor and dropping paper bags full of water on the heads of ^{passing} pedestrians, ~~passing below~~. Rather annoying, you know - to be walking along and have a bagful of water burst on top of your derby or your new winter hat. His Honor the judge decreed - an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. Or rather - cold water for cold water. He condemned the four collegiate culprits to line up outside of the city jail while the bailiff from a second story window doused them with ice-water. He poured down buckets of ice-water on top of them! After ~~which~~ ^{at least} there was no need of putting them in the cooler.

And now Hugh let's ~~talk~~ ~~about~~ turn from ice water to

a/a Blue Sunoco.

Right Hugh - S-L-U-T - may