

L.T. SUNOCO * THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1941

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The focus of the amazing story of Hess turns to another personality tonight. The adjective "amazing" as applied to the Nazi Deputy Fuehrer, is quite right -- the world is still amazed at the flight to Great Britain of Hitler's colleague and friend. It is still the subject of universal talk and wonderment.

But let's consider that other personality; the Number One peer of Scotland, the Duke of Hamilton. His name appeared in the affair from the very first, and today his role in the singular story was clarified -- and made dramatically vivid.


Rudolf Hess landed by parachute on the Scottish estate of the Duke, and the immediate rumor was that he had flown from Germany to see Hamilton and confer with him. Today it was officially disclosed in London that the Nazi Deputy Fuehrer in fact did have a meeting with Scotland's premier nobleman. They met and talked. Moreover, some months ago Rudolf Hess, riding

high as Hitler's colleague and friend, wrote a letter to the Duke of Hamilton.

Altogether, today's revelations have British attention focused on the titled aristocrat who is of as noble lineage as Britain can boast. In the story of Hess, Hamilton is now second in importance only to Hess himself.

His peerage is of ancient date and renown. Fourteenth Duke of Hamilton and the Eleventh Duke of Brandon. Head of the House of Douglas - the name written so boldly on Scotland's most heroic page.

The Duke of Hamilton and Brandon is very much of a person in his own right. He wrote his own name large and heroic in the annals of aviation. His name was then Clydesdale. Before he succeeded to the



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ducal titles of his father, he was the Marquis of Clydesdale ~~and~~
and Douglas. He flew over Mount Everest, led that famous sky
exploration which for the first time revealed to the eye of man
the forbidden summit of the world's highest mountain.

Even before that, this present Duke of Hamilton
and Brandon, had ~~six~~ distinguished himself - as a boxer, a
fighting man in the game of gloves and fists. At Oxford he
won honors as ^a~~the~~ ranking amateur boxer of ^{the}~~Great~~ British Empire.
These matters of pugilism take us to a closer scrutiny of the
personality of the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon.

Today we have an account given by Eddie Eagan, former
amateur heavyweight champion of the world. Eddie Eagan happens
to be a friend of mine, and I've often heard him tell about
Scotland's premier nobleman. Eddie, now a prominent New York
lawyer, was a ^{Colorado}~~California~~ Irish boy who loved to box and went to
college. He was so good with the gloves that he won the amateur
heavyweight championship. He went to college in ^{Denver,} ~~the west,~~ then
to Yale, ^{then to Harvard,} ~~and finally to Oxford.~~ ^{at each he was captain}
^{of the boxing team.} ~~There he teamed up with~~
^{at his particular pal was Britain's}
Oxford's Number One pugilist - the lordly scion of the House of

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Douglas. The two later made a boxing tour around the world - meeting all comers in the amateur ring. So Eddie Eagan knows about His Grace, the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon.

Eddie says they used to call him "Old Duggo." The modern Black Douglas is decidedly unceremonious. "A good fellow, cordial and open-minded", says Eddie Eagan. He visited Germany in connection with sports, ^{the Olympic games,} He looked into the national sports program of the Nazis. He met Hitler - and, says Eddie Eagan, was impressed with the personality of the Nazi Fuehrer. But he had no Nazi sympathies, no liking for the totalitarian ideology - says Eddie. During his visit to Germany in behalf of sports, the Scottish aristocrat met Rudolf Hess, ^{for} the Deputy Fuehrer ^{was} particularly ^{was} interested in the historic flight over Mount Everest.

Eddie Eagan's opinion is that ~~next~~ it was the open friendly minded and humane temperament of Old Duggo that encouraged the Number Three Nazi to appeal to him in behalf of peace. ^{an appeal}

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Today in the London House of Commons, Prime Minister Churchill was queried about Hess, ~~the~~ the Duke of Hamilton, and alleged proposals of peace. The Prime Minister responded that

it would not be in the public interest to have a full discussion. But it was disclosed that the Duke of Hamilton ^{did} ~~went to~~ see Hess, at the behest of the British Government. When the Deputy Fuehrer, upon landing in Scotland, asked to see the Duke - Hamilton was ordered to go and talk to the strange visitor. Similarly, when Hess, on that previous occasion, wrote the Duke of Hamilton on the subject of peace - the London Ministry was informed. The letter was transmitted through secret channels via Lisbon. Hamilton handed it to the British authorities, and no reply was ever made.

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Today, British newspapermen interviewed the Duke, and he told them that he had submitted ^{to Downing Street} to London a comprehensive report of ^{the} ~~his~~ ^{he has just had} talk with Hess. He declined to say what was in the report. He said he had been enjoined to secrecy by what he called - "the highest authority in the country." He would not discuss the affair at all, merely indicating that it was extraordinary indeed. "I have a good story to tell you, but I cannot," said the Duke of Hamilton. "Member^s of the fighting services are not allowed to speak," he added. He's a war

aviator, serving ^{now} in the Royal Air Force.

All of this brings us to the latest important development today - an account of how the story has shaped itself in the most authoritative British opinion available. It goes like this:- Rudolf Hess, high Nazi leader, believed or pretended to believe, that he could launch a move to end the war; that Nazi Germany was invincible, and could not be beaten; that Great Britain could be persuaded. He thought he could put this across if he could talk personally to what he called - "a few men of good will." This he stated in writing secretly to the Duke of Hamilton. He repeated the Nazi contention that Britain was kept in the war by a group centered around Winston Churchill. This too is a familiar Nazi argument. Hess reasons ^{ed} that he could establish contact with other elements in Britain and overcome the influence of the Churchill group, and thus have Britain make peace. He wrote this to the Duke of Hamilton, and when he got no reply - he decided to turn the trick personally - make a personal contact with the Duke by flying to his estate in Scotland.

This version of the affair would rule out the supposition

that Hess had split with Hitler and fled to safety. And, indeed, our latest account from London is that the prisoner shows no sign of anything but being a fanatical Nazi and still completely devoted to Hitler.

This latest interpretation of the Hess affair, ~~xxx~~ as a one-man attempt to end the war, does seem like a wild fantasy. Was Hess sincere in such a pipe dream? If so, he must have had delusions - as indeed the Nazis are officially saying. Or was it some dark and devious scheme?

London today for the first time gave official expression to the suspicion that has been in the British mind all along - the suspicion that Hitler knew about the Hess trip to Scotland. In Parliament, the statement was made by ~~the~~ Britain's no. 2 man, the Minister of Labor, Ernst Bevin. "I do not believe," he declared,

"that Hitler did not know that Hess was coming." This coincides with the British surmise that the singular visit may be part of some ^{Machiavellian plot} ~~dark and devious plot~~ for peace - or against British morale. Bevin stated another prevalent British thought by saying of Hess, "He is no man I would ever negotiate with", And Bevin added, "From my point of view, Hess is a murderer."

There's denial of a report that Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden has talked to Hess. And they say now that Prime Minister Churchill is not likely to see the Nazi Number Three. ^{That} Churchill doesn't want to have anything to do with him, ~~they say~~.

British public opinion is hardening against the Hitler friend and colleague who dropped from the sky. They regard him more and more as simply an arch Nazi. Today at a press conference, an official of the British Foreign Office was asked about the luxuries with which Hess is being provided - ^{asked} luxuries which the British people cannot get. "What," asked the newspapermen, "will be the effect on the public in hearing that Rudolf Hess is being fed on eggs, fish and chicken?"

"I read that a little wistfully myself," responded the Foreign Office official.

FOREIGN

From the German side the intimations are that the Hess affair would be swept out of the limelight soon by what the Nazis call -- startling surprises. The German newspapers are playing down the weird story of the Deputy Fuehrer. They said little about it today.

And with this comes the intimation that Berlin will try to divert attention from Hess by launching something spectacular. That would be one way to get it out of mind. Or perhaps the Nazis have something spectacular already planned in the diplomatic and military fields.

Today's news, for example, carries a few striking intimations. There is a rumor, for example, that Soviet aviators are on their way to Iraq to fight with the Iraq force against the British. The report is from Baghdad and states that the Stalin Red dictatorship has given Soviet aviators permission to fly and fight in the Iraqi battle against Great Britain.

And then we hear about Nazi planes being permitted to use aviation bases in French Syria. London today issued a warning to the Vichy government about this. A late report from Cairo states that a squadron of thirty Hitler planes have reached Iraq - the area

of the Mosul oil fields. Presumably they flew via Syria.

Still more striking was an official broadcast today by Marshall Petain, head of the Vichy government. He told the French people that France must collaborate with Nazi Germany in Europe and in the French Colonial possessions. Petain said, "This collaboration was - by necessity," Hence, the surmise was immediately formed -- that defeated and conquered France is about to line up with Nazi Germany . Just how far -- is not made clear.

WASHINGTON

Tonight I am broadcasting from the Nation's Capitol. And somehow since that last savage bombing of London, Washington seems to me tonight not just a place where politicians gather, and lobbyists connive, and beaureaucrats pile up our taxes and then spend our money right and left. The bombing of London, especially that last barborous raid in which so much damage was done to Westminster Abbey, the House of Commons and the British Museum, has made Washington seem like a sacred place.

Dorothy Thompson put it in words more thrilling than any of mine when she said; writing of the Abbey, the Museum and the House of Commons:- "The Christian Church and tomb of heroes, sages, statesmen, poets. The world's greatest library, reseptacle of the wisdom of ages -- open to all, at the service of all. The Commons, symbol of the longest most uninterrupted, most dignified and elightened experience of popular governme nt the world has ever known!" I thought of her words today as I visited the House and Senate, the Congressional Library, and the magnificent new National Gallery.

And as I chatted at lunch with Senators Hiram Johnson of

of California, Carter Glass of Virginia, Guffey of Pennsylvania Meade of New York, Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, Bridges of New Hampshire, Johnson of Colorado, Tom Connolly of Texas, Happy Chandler of Kentucky, Pepper of Florida, Congressman Ham Fish from my own district, Senator Brooks of Illinois, and others. I even regarded them in a new light, as leaders in man's fight for freedom guardians of our Western Civilization.

Well, let's see what our guardians, our statesmen have been doing today.

I listened to the Senate debate about the bill to requisition the Italian, German and Danish ships. While I sat in the gallery the Senate took action on the amendment proposed by Senator Vandenberg - an amendment that would forbid the Government to turn over the Italian and German ships to the British. The Michigan lawmaker argued that it would be all wrong for this country to take the vessels of one belligerent and give them to the other side. That amendment was defeated.

Then came the vote on the bill itself -- a measure to take over the ships that were seized. This was passed. The vote was fifty-one to twenty. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives.

Among the senatorial opinions expressed today was one by Josh Lee of Oklahoma. That young lawmaker spoke up and called upon the President to proclaim a full state of emergency - "war emergency," said Lee.

Senator Wheeler of Montana demanded of the President a very different sort of thing. He referred to the Hess affair, and said that this was a sign of an internal division in Nazi Germany. The President should take advantage of this and launch a movement for peace -- so said Senator Wheeler.

It was profoundly interesting to witness the Congress

of the United States in action. I was more impressed because ^a ~~the~~ ¹
~~something said by the~~ ^{He declares}
~~Congressional physician, said they~~ ^{x the Congressmen} have been working long and hard
 and need a rest. ~~Then,~~ said Dr. George ~~W.~~ Calvert, who looks
 after the physical well-being of the lawmakers, Congress has been
~~in session~~ in almost continuous session for three years,
 with practically no chance for members to get a real vacation.
 "And," he added, "many members are ~~i~~ urgently in need of rest."

This medical opinion made me more astonished at the
 apparently tireless vigor displayed by legislators who have been
 worked so long and hard.

In a talk with Congressman Hamilton Fish and radio
^{and Manager Harry S. ~~of~~ the Willard,}
 commentators Goodwin and Baukhage the remark was made ^{how}
 out well this ~~Senator~~ or the ^t Congressman looked. Hiram ~~Johnson~~
 Johnson, foreexample. ~~He~~ has been ill and ~~he~~ is overworked, and
 yet I have never seen him looking better.

^{And with that I'll}
~~Well I think that now I will~~ take a rest - and So
 Long Until Tomorrow.

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