

L. J. - Sunoco. - Thursday, July 30, 1942

HOPKINS

Today the first White House wedding in many a long year was solemnized. In the second floor study of the President of the United States, Presidential adviser Harry Hopkins was married to Mrs. Louise Gill Macy, New York Society woman and fashion expert. A string orchestra just outside the room played the Lohengrin Wedding March as the bride and bridegroom entered, and when the ceremony was done the music was -- "the end of a perfect day."

Just before the ceremony, the bride explained ^{she} why ~~who~~ and Harry Hopkins did not want anything stately and formal, ~~why~~ why they thought a formal church wedding ~~would~~ would not be appropriate just now. She put it in these words: "The grave days of war through which we are passing, with sacrifices being made everywhere by the American people, make a simple and private wedding preferable just now!" -- ^{So} said the bride.

Yes, a simple and private wedding -- in the White House.
And among those who attended were President Roosevelt and the First Lady; General Marshall, Chief of Staff; and Admiral King, Commander of the American Fleet.

Harry Hopkins figures in the news today in still another way -- not with a bride this time, but with Stalin. We have a disclosure of what transpired when Hopkins, as President Roosevelt's emissary, conferred with the master of Soviet Russia a year ago. The story is told in a magazine ^{series} ~~series~~ called -- "How the war came." ~~It is~~ by Forrest Davis and Ernest Lindley, and is appearing in the Ladies Home Journal.

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We are told that Hopkins went to Moscow to get an idea of whether or not Soviet Russia could hold off the Nazi invasion. In two sessions with Stalin in the Kremlin, Stalin disclosed to Hopkins one of the most carefully guarded secrets on earth -- the actual war strength of the Soviet union. He placed before Hopkins what the story calls "endless tables, charts, reports and other evidence of Russian armed and industrial might." And then Stalin said to Hopkins: "You may go anywhere, to any Front, to any factory, and find out if what I have shown you is true."

Hopkins was convinced it was true, and felt there was no need to make a personal survey. -- He went back to London and sailed with Prime Minister Churchill to meet President Roosevelt for

that famous conference at sea -- the Atlantic Charter Conference.

of course
Hopkins_^ conveyed to the President and to Churchill_^ *the* information that

Stalin had revealed about Russia's war power. And that convinced

the President and the Prime Minister that the Soviets could hold

off the Nazi Blitzkrieg. Well, let's see how

the Reds are getting on with that
job: —

RUSSIA

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Soviet Russia today rang with calls and exhortations to stop the retreat. Every inch of ground must be held. The Soviet Army ~~Newspaper~~ Newspaper, "Red Star," puts it in these words, "Our country is big, but the Red Army cannot withdraw farther ~~farther~~ without placing the fate of the country and the people in mortal peril". And so the slogan is sounded -- "not one step back". These proclamations, apparently, ~~emanate~~ emanate from Stalin himself.

And They seem to be an apt accompaniment to what news we have from the war zone - the battle of the River Don. The Germans claim that the Soviet forces still left in the big bend of the ~~Don~~ River have been cut off ~~from~~ from all retreat eastward toward Stalingrad - Berlin claiming another of those blitzkrieg encirclements. Still more serious is a German story ~~is~~ stating that the Nazi Panzers ^{have} cut the rail road from Stalingrad to the Caucasus -- the only railroad line left for munitioning the Soviet forces in the Caucasus area. Berlin claims that this was accomplished by German forces which struck across the Don at a point about midway between fallen Rostov and threatened ~~Stalingrad~~. ~~The Panzers are said to have~~

and threatened Stalingrad. The Panzers are said to have driven seventy-five miles south -- to the railroad.

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And at the same time there's a Vichy report that the German forces in the Crimea have crossed the Straits of Kerch -- pushing into the Caucasus from that direction. The crossing from Kerch has long been threatened and, if it now happens, it would mean that these German forces are driving to join the columns that are pushing south from the Don.

And at the north of the great bend - Moscow tells of savage fighting at a place called Kletskaya. ~~That's~~ about seventy-five miles northwest of Stalingrad. The Russians declare they smashed violent mechanized attacks near Kletskaya -- with the Panzers still driving and assaulting.

This ominous Russian news is reflected in London, reflected in a new and louder utterance of those two familiar words -- second front. Today at a secret session of the House of Commons, Lord Privy Seal Sir Stafford Cripps ~~is~~ renewed the pledge that Britain will invade Nazi controlled ~~Europe~~ Europe.

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But he refused to give any details of the second front plans that have been formed.

And the whole thing was dramatized by the appearance of the Soviet Ambassador before the ^{the} secret session of the commons. Ambassador Maisky ~~gave~~ gave to the M.P.'s what is described as ~~that~~ " a full and frank statement," He reported on the progress of the war in Russia. Blunt questions were asked, and he answered them frankly. ^{"Maisky} ~~Maisky~~ greatly impressed those present with his description of the war condition, ^{So} ~~^~~ says the report on today's proceedings in the House of Commons.

R.A.F.

In Europe the weather is good for bombing, and so Britain's R.A.F. sallied forth to the attack in daylight today. They bombed the Nazi-held coast of France - and there was a big air battle with German planes. This - after ~~the~~ last night's heavy blasting ^{of the city} ~~the town~~ of Saarbrucken; ~~That's~~ ⁱⁿ the Saar Valley, heart of German coal mining and war industry. With good weather, the R.A.F. is on a twenty-four hour schedule - round the clock bombing.

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From London there are indications of new weapons on either side. The British have a new type of anti-~~aircraft~~ aircraft fire. This was indicated when today the government warned the civilians to go to air raid shelters whenever the guns were firing. Because, says the British government, there's increased danger of falling shell fragments, fragments of a new type of ammunition that is being used.

The new German weapons, as represented by London is a novel type of incendiary bomb. It was used against London last night.

Among all the new weapons in prospect poison gas does not seem to be one. Such was the indication given today by the British Minister of Home Security - Herbert Morrison. He stated that the British Government does not expect a poison gas attack in the near future, and so the people are no longer urged to carry gas masks all the time.

SABOTEURS

This afternoon the Supreme Court concluded its hearing in the case of the eight Nazi saboteurs. After two days of argument, yesterday and today, the contentions of both the defense and the prosecution were complete, ^{and} the justices of the highest tribunal will now hand down their verdict. This they are likely to do tomorrow.

The Supreme Court hearing has brought to light the line of reasoning taken by the prosecution and defense. The justices have heard publicly the arguments presented previously in such deep secrecy before the Military Commission trying the saboteurs.

Today Attorney General Francis Biddle told the Supreme Court that when they were landed by U-boat the defendants wore uniforms -- fatigue clothes of the German Army. Their idea was that, if caught immediately upon landing, the uniforms would give them the status of prisoners of war.

Upon getting ashore safely, they discarded their uniforms. One ^e group ^{even} sent theirs back to the submarine. Another group buried theirs in the sand. In civilian clothes, the saboteurs were subject to summary execution under military law.

The Attorney General, representing the Government, stated the general contention that the President has absolutely authority in military trials. He used these words: "It is conceivable that the President, in the role of commander-in-chief, ~~can~~ can do things which no Congress can set aside," ~~and said he.~~ ^{That's} This is a sweeping contention, and ~~it will be~~ a point on which the Supreme Court will decide. The great war powers of the President are involved. And thus the decision by the justices is likely to have an important bearing on the legal status of Presidential authority in time of war.

The defense, of course, is maintaining that the Military Commission appointed by the President is unconstitutional -- and that the saboteurs should be brought before the civil courts for punishment. Moreover the defense counsel, Colonel Kenneth Royal, elaborated on the explanation given by the saboteurs -- that they really came over here by U-boat to get out of Nazi Germany.

Colonel Royal took up the particular case of one of the two defendants, who is said to be an American citizen -- Herbert Hans Haupt of Chicago. The story is that ~~the~~ this German-American got into trouble with a girl in Chicago, and went to Mexico. There

he was unable to find employment, and went to the German Consul who procured passage for him to Japan. From Japan, Haupt went to Germany.

There, said Colonel Royal, he found everybody suspicious of him -- presumably because he was a German-American. So he wanted to return to the United States. And as a way of doing this, he enlisted for Nazi sabotage in the United States -- as a ~~mere~~ ~~mere~~ mere pretext.

It's a peculiar sounding story, and seems to be about the only kind of explanation the saboteurs could give -- inasmuch as they were caught with the goods, [^]with the dynamite. — *the T.N.T.*

(Colonel Royal, for the defense, took five hours to present his argument to the Supreme Court. For the prosecution, Attorney General Biddle took three hours and fifty-five minutes.) The Military Commission which recessed during the Supreme Court proceedings, will resume the trial tomorrow. The Commission has already sat through sixteen days of evidence and argument.

SPY TRIAL

A dramatic surprise was sprung today at the Hartford, Connecticut, trial of the Reverend Kurt Molzahn, accused of having done spy work for the Nazis and Japs. One charge against the Reverend Molzahn is that, as Pastor of the old Zion Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, he used his parish as a return address for the Nazi-Bund-and-espionage leader, Kunze. This angle was confirmed today by a surprise witness - - an F.B.I. agent who was in with the Nazi group. And, he is a Catholic Priest.

The Reverend Aleksi Pelypenko, a Ukranian apparently, stated today that he ^{himself} was in Germany from nineteen thirty-seven ~~he~~ ^{Then} ~~he~~ was assigned by Rome to go to Buenos Aires as a Missionary. In the Argentine he became friendly with English and American residents, and ^{while there he} ~~he~~ supplied information to the British intelligence and to the American Embassy.

Last year some of his American friends at Buenos Aires ~~suggested~~ suggested he go to the United States. This he did, and at the dock ^{he} was met by an official of the F.B.I. whereupon the Reverend Aleksi Pelypenko entered the employ of the F.B.I. counter-espionage service.

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Then,
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He told today how he got into contact with the pro-Nazi group that included New York Bund leader Kunze, Chicago Bund leader Willumeit, and the White Russian, Count Vonsiatsky, head of an anti-Bolshevik organization. These three are now under arrest and have pleaded guilty to charges of doing spy work for Germany and Japan. In the group, too, was the Lutheran Minister Molzahn -- so testified the Catholic priest agent of the F.B.I.

He stated that on one occasion the White Russian, Vonsiatsky, returned from San Francisco where he was supposed to have transmitted some military information to a woman secret agent for the Japs. But he had missed her. Whereupon it was decided that Kunze should take the information and try to get it to Berlin via South America.

The Reverend Pelypenko testified that he was asked to help in getting Kunze out of the country, and was told that he should collaborate in this with the reverend Molzahn. He said that the Philadelphia pastor's parish was given as an address for the Nazi Secret Agent.

~~Here is one implication of today's trial proceedings with its accent on clergymen in the F.B.I. has certainly been on the spy trial in a complex and ingenious fashion.~~

HERMIT

In New York the police today picked up a powerful, strange-looking fellow with a bushy beard, who for days had been wandering around the New York waterfront. Every so often this odd individual would stop somebody and inquire -- "When does the next boat leave for Germany?" Upon being questioned by the cops he explained that he wanted to join the German Army and fight in the war. Still more astonishing, he added -- he had just heard that there was a war.

He is a hermit from the Maine woods -- a German who came to this country years ago. He worked on a New York State farm -- then grew tired of that. So he drifted up into the Maine woods, and picked a place deep in the forest. He built a shack, and lived on berries and game -- game that he had caught with traps he made. He was so much of a hermit, in such ~~an~~ deep solitude, that during the past three years he saw only one human being -- a hunter lost in the woods.

A couple of weeks ago the hermit's crude cabin burned down, and he was left without shelter. That persuaded him to start out for the town of Greenville -- a hundred miles away. He hiked that distance. When he got to Greenville, he ~~■~~ saw a newspaper -- the

first he had seen in years. And in the newspaper he read to his astonishment that there was a war. And that the United States was at war with Germany.

The hermit thought it was his duty to go back to fight for his native country. So he made his way to New York, and there haunted the waterfront stopping people and asking: "When does the next boat leave for Germany?"

And now he is the guest of Father Knickerbocker who we hope will explain to him just what all the shooting's about, and why he would have been better off if he had stayed in the Maine Woods. Up there only his cabin burned down. While outside the whole civilized world is one fire.

Hugh, what's your slant on the war tonight? What were you telling me about speeding up industry?