

INVASION

P.L. - Sunco. Wed., December 18, 1940. *Quinn*

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All Britain today seemed to be ~~The British are taking with the utmost seriousness these~~ discussing these latest warnings from ~~warnings uttered by~~ Prime Minister Churchill and Lord Beaverbrook, warnings that a Nazi invasion might be expected at any time. It was recalled in London that as long ~~ago~~ as a month ago, Hitler's generals were again collecting flat bottomed barges and all sorts of flat craft in the harbors of France, Holland, Belgium and Norway. When the same thing occurred last September, and the attempted invasion appeared to be a matter of hours, the Royal Air Force blasted away the danger by smashing Hitler's concentration of barges. Today, the R.A.F. is pursuing the same tactics, hammering away at all ports from which Hitler could attempt to cross the Channel.

One feature of the situation is that Hitler might launch the attack on Britain as a stroke to relieve the pressure ~~of the~~ ~~British forces~~ on his partner, Mussolini, in Libya and Albania. As an omen of this danger, it has been noticed that Air Marshal Goering's air weapon has been significantly quiet during the last few days.

WAR

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And now what of that war in the Middle East? In Africa, ^{ias} ~~British~~ far flung battleline ranges from Bardia on the Mediterranean coast in Libya all the way down to the Ethiopian frontier of Kenya. All along that huge front, Britain smashed at Italy ^{today by} ~~with fighters of~~ land, sea and air. The latest from Cairo is that ^{the British} ~~announce they've~~ ^{say they have} smashed through the fortified perimeter around Bardia, ^{e big} ~~that important~~ Black Shirt base on the Mediterranean. With bombing planes in advance, the mechanized forces penetrated the circle of Italian forts around Bardia.

The British ^{say} ~~admit~~ the Italians are putting up a ^{stiff} ~~terrific~~ resistance and that Bardia is a tough nut to crack.

Some British units are tearing ahead around Bardia, leaving it in the rear and pushing towards ^{the main part of} Tobruk, eighty miles west.

~~a still larger Italian base.~~ Fighting was difficult because of

heavy rains in the western desert, but Royal Air Force planes ^{Today} ~~went on~~ ^{ing} ~~continued to~~ bombard Bardia, which was also ~~being~~ shelled by

British men-o-war ~~lying~~ off the coast.

^{The} ~~Britain's~~ attack on Ethiopia takes the form of lending

aid to Haile Selassie, the ~~King of Kings~~, exiled Emperor.

the one-time King of Kings
It is reported that ~~he~~^A is at present in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan,

arousing the chieftains of his former empire to rebel against their Fascist rulers.

From the war in Albania, news comes from two different sources. One from Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia. Border rumors have it that the Greeks have captured Klisura, after the most sanguinary fighting. They first routed the Italians ten miles east of Tepelini and then treated Klisura to a fierce barrage of cannon fire. When their fire was not returned, the Helene infantry advanced upon the town. But to their surprise they were met by a battalion of Italian Bersaglieri, the personal bodyguard of the King of Italy, reinforced with tanks. There they had it out in hand-to-hand fighting, but finally the Italians gave way. That's today's frontier report about ~~that~~^{the} Albanian war.

It's different in Athens. A spokesman for the Greek War Office declared that those Yugoslav border reports were exaggerated. Greek troops had not yet occupied Klisura or Tepelini. But they were cannonading Klisura and expected to be

able to do it soon. British and Greek ~~airplane~~ pilots reported that thousands of Albanians were fleeing from their homes, plodding along roads covered with snow. Parts of that Albanian front was swept by a blizzard and some of the Greek divisions had to make their way through thirty foot snowdrifts.

LAVAL

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Pierre Laval, the deposed Vice-Premier of France, will stand by his guns. ~~and stick to his attitude.~~ *(He's pro Nazi and doesn't care who knows it.)* He believes in cooperation between France, Germany and Italy. He's confident that Germany and Italy are going to win the war. Nothing, he believes, can prevent Hitler and Mussolini from making over Europe ~~on the~~ *by blue prints. Hence the* Fascist-Nazi plan. ~~The~~ only hope for France is to collaborate. In different language, he echoes the words of ~~our own~~ General Zachary Taylor, "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em."

today
Laval made his position clear quite candidly, ~~without reservation,~~ to Ralph Heinzen of the United Press. The deposed Vice-Premier declines to give his version of what happened at Vichy on Friday the Thirteenth, declines to tell his own story of his fight with Petain and the other colleagues in the Cabinet. He made no remarks for direct quotation, refused even to discuss his imprisonment, which was nothing really but confinement to his own castle in the Auvergne region. But he permitted Heinzen to publish a statement outlining the Laval position. Evidently he's ~~quite~~ *back* confident that the pendulum is going to swing to him. ~~that eventually he will pull a lot of weight in France.~~ He believes

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And that eventually the French will keep the agreement he made for them with Hitler's Foreign Minister, an agreement to collaborate with Hitler and Mussolini. He believes in a new order in Europe.

He's anti-British. Laval says that the Auvergne peasants have fought the islanders too often ⁱⁿ past centuries to be able to switch now and be friendly to them. France, as he puts it, must be a continental power, cannot isolate herself from the rest of Europe and try to be an Atlantic power. ~~Therefore~~ *He believes France* she must reach friendly understandings with Germany, Italy, and Spain. That's the only way she can become an important member of the new Europe.

Finally, he hopes he may be able to play the part of the great reconciler between Europe and the United States.

And by the way, here's what looks like an omen of Laval's power, still far reaching. Marshal Petain today appointed a new general delegate of the French government at /Paris. And that new general delegate is the Count De Brinon, a close friend of Laval, who has been Laval's representative at Paris with virtually the authority of an ambassador. That same de Brinon has been carrying on negotiations with Hitler's man, Otto Abetz, to bring about collaboration with the Nazis.

At last we have the real story of the liner Western Prince, torpedoed by a Nazi submarine. Fifty-three passengers and ninety-nine members of the crew are safe. They arrived at an unnamed port on the west coast of England.

Among those saved were the Right Honorable C.D. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munitions and Supplies. Two members of his party are also safe, W.D. Woodward of ~~the~~ Vancouver who is on the Howe staff and C.P. Taylor of Toronto, Director of Munitions Production.

Among the other passengers aboard the Western Prince were James Bone, Editor of the Manchester Guardian, and Colonel A. E. McCrae, a member of the British Purchasing Commission in the United States.

They are among the survivors. Apparently the sinking of the Western Prince and the saving of so many of the passengers and crew will go down as one of the minor sea sagas of this war. The lifeboats were launched with great difficulty. High seas were running. One of the boats was smashed against the side of the ship, crushing the passengers and members of the crew who were trying to climb down the rope ladder. Still another lifeboat capsized, and all who were in it drowned.

Captain John Reed, skipper of the Western Prince, went down with his ship after blowing three blasts on his whistle to salute the lifeboats as they were pulling away. Surely a dramatic moment. Captain Reed shouted to the people in the lifeboats: "Goodbye, give my respects to all at home." At the side of Captain Reed was a Cockney steward, a steward named Frank who shouted out: "I'm staying along with the old man." One minute after Captain Reed blew those three blasts on the whistle the Western Prince went down.

SUBMARINES FOLLOW HOWE

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More Nazi raiders in the North Atlantic. This morning a radio message was picked up from a Dutch tanker. She had been torpedoed some four hundred miles northeast of Scotland. Eighteen minutes later, came another message, a call for immediate help as the Dutch vessel had lost two of her three lifeboats.

Two hours later still, the master of a Norwegian steamer radioed that he was being attacked by a submarine. Both of these ships were not far from the spot where the WESTERN PRINCE went down.

And this afternoon a message was intercepted from a British vessel claiming she had been torpedoed off the coast of Scotland.

All talk in Washington today centered around that sensational proposal made public by President Roosevelt yesterday, the proposal to lend or lease war material to the British.

Nor is the president resting on that announcement. Already he is having a program prepared -- a definite plan for lending or leasing all kinds of armament. But, he made it emphatic today that he doesnot include the Navy; no men-o'-war to be leased. However he does include merchant vessels, tanks, planes. Anything that we lend, to be covered by a mortgage.

And this, Mr. Roosevelt feels, will not increase the danger of our being dragged into the war. And the value of the material we may thus lend or lease may run into large figures, into the billions.

And what do the Germans think about President Roosevelt's loan or lease proposal? Officially, they say nothing. Unofficially they are making light of it. They say that the limited capacity of the United States to turn out arms at present will prevent any decisive help, to Britain from us.

LEEDS

In the meantime here is some voluntary aid! —

About a hundred and thirteen years ago, an Englishman named Hardwicke, emigrated to America, went to a little village in the Catskills, Madison, New York. ^{There} He established a woolen mill. ~~For~~ Several weavers followed him ~~there~~ from Leeds and eventually the name of Madison, New York, was changed to Leeds, New York.

A few months ago, the Mayor of Leeds, New York, received a cable from the Chamber of Commerce of Leeds, England. It inquired whether Leeds, New York, would not like to contribute to the fund being raised in Leeds, England, to buy the government a Spitfire, ^a *Leeds in England is a city of half a million souls,* fighting plane. ~~Now~~ Leeds, New York, is a place of three hundred citizens. A Spitfire costs twenty-five thousand dollars. But the idea caught on in the Catskills. The local newspaper took it up and presently checks came pouring into Leeds, New York. Some ~~of~~ ~~them even came~~ from hundreds of miles away. It's not certain yet that Leeds, New York, can buy ^{a Spitfire} ~~an entire fighting airship~~ for the British, but the little town in the Catskills ^{seems about} ~~is doing its best~~ to do it.

The Walter-Logan bill is definitely dead. And for the time being there is no possibility of any federal act to give people a chance to appeal to the courts against the procedure of certain semi-judicial government agencies. Action today was quick and dramatic.

It had been said that President Roosevelt would veto it, but the prophesy hadn't been that his veto would be sustained so quickly. The President told Congress that he could not approve the bill because, in his words, "it would produce the utmost chaos and paralysis in the administration of the government at this critical time." He is convinced, he says, that it would be an invitation to endless and innumerable controversies at a moment when we can least afford them. "An ounce of action is worth more than a pound of argument," he remarked.

Observers are pointing out two phrases in the President's message. One, his remark about the general philosophy of the bill. Another was his declaration that the effect it would be to reverse one of the most significant and useful trends of the Twentieth Century in legal administration. Some observers interpret that as an admission that we are changing over to a government by federal bureaus.

The House took it up quickly, and the result was a New Deal victory. Not an overwhelming one, ~~to be sure~~.

Actually, there was a majority in favor of over-riding *President*

Roosevelt's veto. But, it wasn't large enough. The vote was

a hundred and fifty-three to a hundred and twenty-seven.

A hundred and fifty-three in favor of over-riding the veto.

~~and that was~~ Far short of the necessary two-thirds majority *to*
override a President.

MISSING

Here's the story of a man who wandered away from home because he was worried about becoming an American citizen.

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Day before yesterday we heard that a brilliant young German chemist named Erhard Fernholz was reported missing at Princeton, New Jersey. Few details were given out at the time and a good deal of mystery was made of it. Now comes the explanation. From the Director of the Squibb Institute at New Brunswick, New Jersey, where Fernholz was chief of the chemistry division. Fernholz had applied for naturalization. He was exceedingly keen to become an American. But he began to worry ~~and~~ because his final papers did not arrive. This preyed on his mind, depressed him.

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But, ironically, the day after he was reported missing, there came a communication from the Department of Justice.

His application had been approved and he was notified to show up at Trenton Saturday morning to take his oath of allegiance

to Uncle Sam, and become an American citizen. Still no clue.

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And now Hugh what from you?