

P.J. - Lunoco. Tuesday, April 22, 1941.

WAR

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The best barometer for the Battle of Greece is the state of opinion in London. The latest from the British capital uses the words, "deep gloom." London is pessimistic about the chances of the British and Greeks to hold out much longer against the enduring violence of the mechanized attack. It is emphasized that the British and Greeks are tired, worn out by the strain of fighting day after day without relief, retreating constantly under never-ending attack, retiring all the way from the Yugoslav frontier nearly to the Gulf of Corinth. Reports from the battlefield tell of Australians and New Zealand troops, begrimed and battered, but grimly carrying on, throwing themselves down at the roadside to snatch a few minutes of sleep, - after many sleepless night^s. Presumably the opposite condition is true of the Germans, with their huge predominance in numbers - fresh troops constantly coming up, tired units quickly relieved. That was the story in the Battle of France last year, and very likely it's the same story all over again today.

57

The Nazis have captured such places as Volos, Lamia and Janina. They ^{have} slashed all the way across the broad plains of

Thessaly - and beyond. The Allied line stretching across Greece has been forced to retire, until it seemed as if it might become a defensive front with its back to the sea - the long Gulf of Corinth which intersects Greece, and almost cuts it into two parts. But that is not the defending front - back against the sea. Both London and Athens agree in stating that the Allies are ~~breaking~~ taking up a very different ~~line~~ kind of line.

The geography of Greece is so complex that to talk Hellenic topography on the air would be something like trying to describe a jigsaw puzzle in mere words. You've really got to look at a map. Suffice it to say, that the Greeks and British, in their latest retirement, are drawing a line across a narrow strip of land with the sea on both sides - a kind of corridor, at the end of which ^{are} ~~is~~ classic Attica and legended Athens. It's a ^{sort} ~~kind~~ of wheeling movement by the eastern Allied flank, swinging from a line east to west to one that's more or less north to south. By doing this, however, the eastern sector ~~of the Allied line~~ apparently must break contact with the Greeks further to the west. These are in peril of being isolated, cut off - in which case they

would be in a helpless position. Berlin and Rome, indeed, today spoke of reports that the Greek forces to the west were surrendering.

The new line of the Allies defending Athens is short. The strip of land is narrow - about forty miles across. The country is mountainous, and adapted to defense. But London's gloomy opinion expresses the doubt that the worn-out British and Greek troops can hold the new front against the terrific battering tactics of the blitzkrieg. The attack in defense of this area may well be the final phase in the Battle of Greece - and what an historic area, redolent with classic memories! All through the conflict in the land where the light of Western Civilization began, the imagination has been caught by place names that recall the grandeur that was Greece. For several days the battle wavered at Mt. Olympus^{S.}_Λ.
And what do we hear today?

49
The new line which the Allies have taken up begins in the north at Thermopylae, and continues near Mt. Parnassus, and passes near Delphi. Thermopylae, where Leonidas

and his three hundred Spartans held the pass to the death. In four hundred and Eighty B.C., it was a pass fifty feet wide between cliffs and the sea. Today the land is widened into a plain two or three miles across - and that sounds like a good maneuver ground for the Panzer divisions. Berlin reports tonight tell of fighting near the slopes of Mt. Parnassus - that sacred summit which was dedicated of old to Apollo and the nine muses. Hence the figure of speech - "climbing Parnassus" when you are writing poetry. Nearby Delphi, where the Oracle was, ^{the} mysterious priestesses uttering cryptic prophecies - mystic utterances of universal fame in the classic world, the Delphic Oracle. So that's where the battlefield is tonight, amid the shades of the classic past!

If the Allies are not able to hold that front, Thermopylae, Parnassus, Delphi - what then? London opinion, as expressed in the latest bulletin, would indicate that if the present line is forced, there ^{is} no good one further ^{on - near} ~~off - all the way to~~ Athens. It is true that the British and Greek Army might still retire via the narrow Isthmus of Corinth into the Peloponnesus -

southern Greece, which is almost like an island. But the British seem to believe that the alternative which would have to be taken is - evacuation. Another Dunkirk^{le,} they are saying. But London observes that it probably would be ^{even} more difficult and dangerous than Dunkirk, ~~as~~ not so many troops involved - but also not as much shipping facility for the task. This would have to be accomplished in the face of a slashing German drive and the incessant attacks by the Stuka dive bombers. ^{which} ~~These~~ today were bombing all around the vicinity of Athens. There's no indication that bombs have blasted in the city of Pericles itself - no direct action to invoke the British threat of air raid reprisal against Rome. But the Stukas have been slashing mercilessly at the route of retreat and the ports of possible ~~xxxx~~ embarkation.

Perhaps the removal of British troops from Greece has already begun. The Nazis claim it has. They've been claiming that for days - a thing of obvious propaganda value, trying to stir up bad feeling between the Greeks and the British. Rome today repeats a previous Berlin story of trouble between the two allies, the Greeks resenting British evacuation. The Italian story describes

the shrieking of Greek mobs as British troops marched to the port of Piraeus.

There's no doubt about the bad situation of the Allies in Greece - there was no question about it in the House of Commons today. Prime Minister Churchill faced Parliament, an anxious and uneasy Parliament. There were demands that he should make a statement about ~~conditions of affairs~~ in Greece. Churchill refused, said that a discussion of the battle would not be in the public interest.

52

The Prime Minister spoke as follows:- "The only piece of news I have for the House is that the Mediterranean battlefleet at daybreak yesterday bombarded Tripoli for forty-two minutes - inflicting ~~further heavy~~ very heavy damage on both the port and shipping in the harbor." That was cheered with enthusiasm, ^{it was} one of the few pieces of good news that Great Britain had from the Mediterranean area today - a slashing attack made by the royal navy ~~xxx~~ against Nazi communications with north Africa, the transport of supplies for their drive into Egypt.

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Another ~~British~~ blow against those [^] Nazi Mediterranean

communications was struck with torpedoes. R.A.F. torpedo planes blasted three supply ships which were carrying munitions for the Nazis in their north African effort toward the Suez Canal.

President Roosevelt today gave his comment on the state of the war in the eastern Mediterranean. He cautioned people against drawing quick conclusions from the day-by-day stories of the fighting, the immediate victories and defeats. He said the war will be won by keeping Great Britain in operation - in the battle.

WARFARE

3

Every time the blitzkrieg machine of Nazi Germany scores some new and shattering victory, the question is repeated - why did the mechanized methods of the lightning war come with such a surprise? Why were the armies of other nations so unprepared to meet it? Why didn't their military leadership know about the kind of blitz that Hitler was getting ready? Why were they taken unawares by the masses of tanks, the Panzer divisions, the dive bombing Stukas, the methods of mechanical break-through?

Some enlightenment along this line was ^{provided} ~~given~~ today by General Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He was giving testimony before the Senate Committee Investigating National Defense, and was telling how ^{OUT} ~~the United States~~ Army has had to revise its methods because of the war in Europe.

In describing the magnitude of these revisions of technique he used the word - "catastrophic". All because of the tremendous changes the Nazi high command has introduced into the art of war. General Marshall used a technical term to express the major feature of the blitzkrieg. He called it - "a maneuver

of rupture". That is, disrupting the hostile fighting front.

The Chief of Staff, in giving a military analysis, stated that

54
the "maneuver of rupture" was tried out by the Kaiser's generals toward the end of the previous World War. They ^{tested it} ~~tried it out~~ with

the methods of those days. ^{But} The Nazi commanders ^{have} altered the

"maneuver of rupture" - "put it on wheels", ^{id} said General Marshall.

The result of that speeding up of the maneuver was the break-through

in France, the downfall of the French army, and the British

evacuation at Dunkirk. Also events of the past couple of weeks -

the lightning strokes in Yugoslavia and Greece.

At this point Senator Connally of Texas intruded with that most pertinent question; - "Why had the new strategies of the blitzkrieg taken other armies so much by surprise? The Senator asked the General whether or not the United States Army had received reports from its military attaches in Germany - reports of the kind of war the Nazis were preparing. General Marshall replied yes, the American military attaches had

forwarded a lot of information. ^{had} They [^] told of the huge air force

3
the Germans were developing. They ^{had} stated likewise that the Nazi high command was forming many armored divisions, big tank units. That was knowⁿ, but a couple of things were lacking - a couple of pieces in the picture puzzle. One was, the size of the German tanks, and their amazingly high efficiency. That angle was kept hidden, a part of the Nazi military secrecy.

The other angle, the other ^{missing} ~~amazing~~ piece in the picture puzzle, is still more important. It's the real key to that - "maneuver of rupture." The American attaches reported about the Panzer divisions and about the Nazi Air Corps, the dive bombers. But they didn't know how those two factors would work together, the mechanized equipment on the ground and the war planes in the sky - in close collaboration. That also was a Nazi military secret. "The Germans," declared General Marshall, "introduce^d air strength as artillery on the battlefield, and coordinated it with the rapid movement of ground troops. General ~~Marshall~~ ^{He} spoke of that coordination in these terms:- "in a manner which other nations believed could not be done." 56
That was the key secret in the "maneuver of rupture" - the missing

piece, without which the picture could not be put together.

The Chief of Staff stated that the blitzkrieg lessons were quickly learned over here. (He told the Senate Committee that at the time of the fall of France, in June of last year, this nation had no armored force at all. On July Fifteenth the army chiefs took four thousand men and officers and created a nucleus of two tank divisions equipped in the Panzer style. These have been developed into first class strength and efficiency, and by June of this year we'll have four armored divisions - so said the Chief of Staff.)

He was followed by Brigadier-General Twaddle, Acting Mobilization Chief of the Army. He told the Committee that the progress of training and equipment has been such that the new ~~army~~ army could fight tomorrow - if it had to.

TAXES

The proposal to raise three and a half billion dollars in new taxes was okayed by the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives today. Three and a half billion was set, as - the minimum goal. So it might even be more.

One member of the Committee later stated that the Treasury is proposing more drastic taxes than is being made public. One suggestion is to keep the income tax rate the same as now - a basic four per cent. But to impose surtaxes on top of that for everybody -- a surtax on the very first dollar of taxable income.

An idea of the kind of surtaxes was given by the member of the Committee. For example:- on the first two thousand dollars of taxable income, the surtax would be eleven per cent, - that on top of the normal four per cent. Fifteen per cent in all. The surtaxes would be increased with every two thousand dollars. So that, for example, on an income of eight thousand dollars a year, the total tax on the last two thousand would come to twenty-three per cent. That's the suggestion that has been made.

SENATOR

In today's news of the appointment of a Senator from Texas, there's an element of surprise. The appointment was, indeed, a surprise to the new Senator himself - so startling that it knocked him out. When he heard the Governor had named him, he was so excited - he collapsed and had to be put to bed. The new Senator is eighty-seven years old.

He is Andrew Jackson Houston, the last surviving son of Sam Houston, hero of Texas independence. That's the part of it which will surprise most of us - to know that there's a surviving son of that Sam Houston who led the Texans against Mexico way back in Eighteen Thirty-Six. He was the Commander *at* of the Battle of San Jacinto a hundred and five years ago - and a son of his is alive today.

In naming a successor to the late Senator Morris Sheppard, the Texas Governor is invoking the legend of Sam Houston. That was pointed out in the Texas Legislature today, as attacks were made on the appointment. One state legislator declared that the new Senator from the Lone Star State should be ~~xxx~~ what he called - "the most able and aggressive person available." He said

the Governor was playing politics in sending to Washington the

eighty-seven year old son of the victor of Texas independence *who*
himself collapsed with surprise
when he heard it.

And now before you collapse
here's Hugh.

9 1/4