

L.I. - Thursday, April 4, 1940.

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A British story of an air fight reveals something new -- war planes bombing each other. Military <sup>tacticians</sup> ~~technicians~~ have been telling the possibility of such a manoeuvre -- planes dropping bombs on hostile planes. Now, ~~is~~ for the first time, that kind of attack has been attempted

The story tells of an elaborate air battle, a huge British flying boat in a scrap with a number of German sky fighters. It all began with a German attack on a convoy. There was bombing and anti-aircraft fire, and a couple of Nazi planes attacked the <sup>Monster</sup> ~~British~~ flying boat. This giant sky craft flew low above the sea to avoid being attacked from underneath. There was a blaze of machine gun fire and the British say they <sup>destroyed</sup> ~~shot down~~ the two German fighters. But there were other attack planes flying high above, and they swooped down. Then it was <sup>that</sup> the new tactics were tried. <sup>Goliath</sup> One German plane flew over the flying boat and released a ~~the~~ bomb. ~~And it~~ It missed. The German tried it again, aimed another bomb. Four in all were dropped in a novel attack of plane bombing plane. None of them hit, and the huge British flying boat flew home. Damaged -- but by machine gun bullets, not bombs.

LONDON

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The British Parliament will have a secret session on April Eleventh - a debate behind closed doors concerning the war against Germany. This was announced by Prime Minister Chamberlain today. The secret proceedings seem to be a reflection of the fact that the British are not entirely satisfied with the Cabinet changes that occurred yesterday. The new and greater powers given to Winston Churchill ~~meet~~<sup>meet</sup> with general approval. But there's plenty of suggestion in London that the Cabinet shake-up didn't go far enough - was just a shuffling around of the same people. This is particularly the view of the Labor Party. It is believed that new Cabinet changes will soon be made - perhaps as a result of the forthcoming secret session of Parliament.

Prime Minister Chamberlain today spoke in a tone of large optimism. He said that he was ten times as sure that the Allies would win the war as he was when the conflict began.

ADRIATIC

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The British sea blockade is reaching into that body of water which Fascist Italy considers so particularly its own - the Adriatic. At Belgrade, the word is that Britain has warned Yugoslavia that its ships will be stopped if they carry bauxite bound for Hitlerland. Bauxite is the ore from which aluminum is made, and its mention today is part of a curious story.

Some weeks ago, the British in an international flare-up, stopped Italian ships carrying German coal. So now German coal must go to Italy by rail. They must load up with some kind of freight on their way back, and they've been carrying bauxite. Thus the trade in the stuff from which aluminum is made is a reflex of the British action in stopping the Italian ships.

The warning to <sup>the</sup> Jugoslavi<sup>s</sup> points of course to the Adriatic, on which ~~water~~ Jugoslavia has its coast. The Italians claim that body of water as their own, and today there were press intimations that the Mussolini Government would not like it one bit - if London were to extend its contraband control to the Adriatic.

Similarly - in the Far East. Japan is muttering because

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of the prospect that Britain might seize ships in the Sea of Japan. Britain wants to stop vessels carrying to Soviet Russia goods which might be reshipped to Nazi Germany. Japan doesn't like the idea of the contraband control being extended to that sea which Japan considers her own.

THETIS

Today Britain at war had a reminiscence of peace-time, a reminder of a story more tragic than war. The Admiralty released a report of the official investigation into the sinking of the submarine THETIS in June of last year. The report gives a series of causes that made the loss of the THETIS so frightful ~~a~~ ~~human~~ <sup>π</sup> disaster:- One salient point concerns why the submarine sank. It was largely because of the carelessness of a painter. This workman painted one of the valves. In doing so, he clogged it with paint. He didn't take the care to see that the excess paint was cleared out, excess ~~paint~~ that impeded the working of the valve.

Other causes are listed in what the Admiralty report describes in these words:- "persistent ill fortune." The persistent ill fortune that caused the tragedy of the THETIS.

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<sup>15</sup>  
There general disapproval of the statements made by ~~the~~

Attorney General <sup>Connant</sup> ~~Canadian~~ of Ontario -- the speech in which he said ~~that~~ Canada should draw the United States into the war. In Washington there were congressional attacks with Senator Holt of West Virginia saying -- the Canadian people are in nowise responsible for the declarations made by Attorney General Connant.

Secretary of State Hull ~~made~~ the comment that the statement ~~was~~ <sup>nondescript and</sup> not necessarily inspired by the Canadian government. In Ottawa <sup>TP</sup>

Dominion officials deplored the Connant remarks describing them as -- "ill advised and unfortunate." Canadian officials said that for months the Dominion government has tried to persuade speakers to say nothing that might be interpreted as Allied propaganda

directed at the United States ~~or~~ nothing that might seem to advocate <sup>the</sup> ~~interest~~ <sup>entrance</sup> of the United States into the war.

DIES

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The Dies Committee had some more rumpus today -- more obstreperous Reds causing plenty of trouble. One of them was the Red Flame. She's a woman and is called the Red Flame not because ~~of~~ she has red hair ~~and~~ she's a blond. The crimson color applies to her politics. She's a New England Communist of burning zeal. Today the Red Flame was as defiant a witness as the other and perhaps less flaming Reds have been. She fought against the questions asked her, spoke scathingly about stool pigeons, and acted like a thorough going comrade. ~~He~~ Another witness was Phil Frankfell of Boston, Secretary of the New England Communists. He refused to answer any questions at all. ~~And~~ He wanted to make a speech. <sup>also</sup> He demanded that he be allowed to read a statement. When that permission was refused he shouted his denunciations. <sup>Whereupon he</sup> ~~he~~ was promptly held in contempt, <sup>while</sup> spectators shouted, "throw him out!" <sup>and</sup> ~~on~~ his way out he flung a copy of his statement to the newspaper men -- a statement denouncing the Dies Committee, in most communistic terms.

FARLEY

Today Postmaster General Jim Farley grew literary and oracular. As a result, there's a lot of political guessing. Jim, talking big-time politics, delivered himself of a bookish allusion to a novel by Dickens. And what he said had the cryptic obscurity of <sup>the</sup> Delphic oracle.

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Postmaster General Jim is in Texas, pulling ~~the~~ political wires. He's a candidate for the presidency, <sup>and</sup> ~~while~~ Texas is steamed up over the presidential possibilities of its own favorite son, Vice-President Garner. That makes the situation a bit ticklish, but Jim is noted for his finesse. <sup>R</sup> Today, the Postmaster General attended a Democratic love feast that resounded with Garner-for-President enthusiasm. The Mayor of Dallas suggested - that Farley would fit nicely in second place on a Garner ticket.

Jim responded in these enigmatic words, and you can try to figure them out. Said he:- "As to what is going to happen in the future - like Barkis, I'm willing." The literary allusion <sup>to</sup> ~~about~~ Barkis takes us to Dickens's "David Copperfield", in which Barkis is a character. Quite a character. His courtship ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> a lady takes the form of a repeated message, which he is always



sending. A three-word message, saying: "Barkis is willing."

So Jim is like Barkis, except that he's not trying to marry anybody. *No sir says Mrs. Farley,* ~~Being a married man, He'd hardly do that. He's~~

*Jim is*  
willing on the subject of - "what is going to happen in the <sup>political</sup> future."

And you can interpret that if you can. ~~Political~~ Soothsayers are trying to discover in the cryptic oracle some hint that

Postmaster Jim is willing to take a vice-presidential nomination.

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THIRD TERM

The newspaper sleuths, seeking clues to the third term enigma - today tried their ingenuity on Secretary of the Interior Ickes. With cunning subtlety they asked him, what would he be doing next year?

~~instead of delving into politics~~

Honest Harold, instead of delving into politics merely used the question as an opportunity to wax pathetic, emotional, piteous, and even tragic. "Well," he sighed, "I may have to insert a want-ad in a newspaper reading: 'Position wanted, <sup>by a</sup> showorn, <sup>p</sup>overworked, tired old man who has received more <sup>^</sup>brickbats than any other man in public life.'"

*Mr. Mournful Secretary*  
Mighty sad, Harold, - ~~But~~ remember - you hurled a few missiles yourself. And we can paraphrase <sup>^</sup>holy <sup>^</sup>rite <sup>^</sup>and say -

"He that liveth <sup>s</sup>by the brickbat shall perish by the brickbat."

MRS. ROOSEVELT

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Mrs. Roosevelt today told about the money she'll get for her forthcoming series of broadcasts -- which are sponsored by Sweetheart soap. The First Lady did not say how much she would be paid but she ~~get~~ <sup>but</sup> told where the proceeds would go. Hitherto, the money she has earned by broadcasting has been given to various charitable causes. In the case of the Sweetheart Soap programs, the same precedent is ~~being~~ <sup>to be</sup> followed. Mrs. Roosevelt said the pay will be given to the Service Committee of the American Society of Friends.--

~~the Quakers:~~ They'll get the money from Sweetheart Soap.

VATICAN

From the Vatican comes words of new American Cardinals to be named. How many? The word is -- four. Pope Pius is to hold a consistory in June, a consistory for the naming of cardinals. The United States right now has two, and there are two vacancies-- left by the deaths of Cardinals Hayes and Mundelein. These two vacancies are to be filled, and the expectation is that Archbishop Spellman of New York and Archbishop Stritch of Chicago will get the red hats. In addition two other American cardinals will be named. And prominently mentioned are -- Archbishop ~~Mitty~~<sup>TR</sup> of San Francisco and Archbishop Cantwell of Los Angeles. If this story from Rome be true, it means that the United States will have more Cardinals then ever before -- six.

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CHRISTIAN FRONT

The defendants in the Christian Front trial in Brooklyn demanded a mistrial today. They're the ones charged with some sort of anti-Jewish movement, which plotted to overthrow the Government of the United States. The specific accusation is the theft of weapons from National Guard armories. The demand for a mistrial was made on the score of newspaper accounts, which declared that Catholics would not be allowed on the jury that will try the alleged Christian Fronters. The <sup>re</sup> were stories that an all-Protestant jury would be sought. ~~for the jury, which is being selected now.~~

The judge denied the motion for a mistrial, but took action to see who was responsible for the tale that Catholics ~~would~~ be kept off the jury.

FLOOD

New flood danger in Pennsylvania! The Susquehanna is acting up again. After causing disastrous inundations earlier this week, the water level proceeded to fall for several days.

But <sup>now</sup>~~today~~ the Susquehanna <sup>is rising</sup>~~started to rise~~ again. So there's new danger.

Further west, in the Pittsburgh area, the Allegheny is approaching the flood level, the stream swollen by rains and melting snows.

OIL

There's one old question that is scheduled to get a lot of expert answering next week, the oft asked query - How long will our oil supplies last? We know, of course, that petroleum geologists are constantly finding new oil fields, <sup>for our own sun oil co and</sup> ~~finding them~~ <sup>others - finding them</sup> faster than we can even pump the old ones dry. And that's a lucky thing for all of us. On April Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth those same petroleum geologists will stage a big anniversary conference in Chicago - the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. And they'll have a thorough discussion of the situation of this nation with reference to oil deposits.

## BILLIARDS

Years ago there was a boy wonder of billiards. Today he's the old master, ~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> lofty degree of his mastery is seen in the big billiards tournament going on in Chicago. Last night Willie Hoppe won his seventeenth straight game, <sup>r</sup> in a three-cushion play, and he hasn't suffered a defeat. That breaks all existing records of consecutive victories, records for either tournament, match play or exhibitions. Hoppe has three more games to go. No question about his winning the championship in the three-cushion tournament. He has that sewed up already. He has only three games to go to win the championship tournament - undefeated.

Once he was the boy wonder. Now - what an old master!



BOMB

Authorities in West Virginia declared today that there may have been murder in a mysterious explosion that occurred last night. J. B. Hinshellwood was an official of a coal company, a non-union concern, one of the few operating without union contract in West Virginia. He was driving along a rural highway, when his car blew up - a terrific blast that left nothing but scattered fragments. Nobody saw the explosion, though it was heard for miles.

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Today state and county police announced that in the debris at the scene they found an alarm clock key, and another bit of mechanism which they have not yet identified. This leads them to believe that the blow-up may have been caused by a time-bomb -- an infernal machine made of as many as a dozen sticks of dynamite. This - concealed in the car and timed to explode as the coal company official was driving to his home.

EXPLOSION

There's something of a mystery about an explosion at Amsterdam, New York, the mystery of the flaming trousers.

58 1/2  
A two-story wooden building blew up <sup>today</sup> and was shattered to bits. One section of the structure was blown out into the street, hit another building and damaged it. The blast shook the whole town. There were no casualties, apparently - except perhaps for some painful and awkward injuries sustained by one man.

# He was the owner of a saloon in the exploded building, and is something of a mystery man tonight. Right after the ~~explosion~~ <sup>blast</sup> he was seen in the street with his trousers ablaze. <sup>and</sup> Bystanders helped him ~~to~~ put out that ~~unpleasant~~ uncomfortable fire. Thereupon he disappeared, and hasn't been seen since - vanished. Nobody knows why. Maybe he just has to keep on walking - can't sit down.

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59 1/4  
And now Hugh will you stand up and take a bow.