

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, April 26, 1940.

WAR

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The Germans made further advances today in their two-way drive for Trondheim. The geography in the case is two long valleys leading from the Oslo area, one ~~to the north~~ to the north and the other to the northwest. Through these valleys they are blasting with every means at their command, motorized equipment, artillery, and war planes. It's a desperate effort to cut through the Allied forces, and reach the Nazi units <sup>at</sup> Trondheim - isolated there. Military experts state that if they succeed <sub>^</sub> in linking up their southern forces with the Trondheim garrison, the Allies may find it difficult to hold on in southern Norway! <sup>!</sup> So, let's see what today's news gives us about the two German drives.

The one up the valley straight north is moving on, ~~though apparently at slower speed. It is clear that this area, near the Swedish border, is not so heavily held by the Allies.~~

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Yesterday, the swift moving Nazi column captured the town of Roeros, but it appears later on they retreated and took up a position six miles to the rear, awaiting reinforcements.

~~Today they~~ <sup>Germans</sup> captured Roeros. <sup>In fact this</sup> ~~This~~ is admitted in today's

communique issued by the Norwegian army command. It states that the Nazi column is pushing northward toward the important railroad junction of Stoeren, through which runs a railroad line to Trondheim. The Norwegian account says that Stoeren is held by a force of British troops.

Here's an odd story about the German column in this advance. A Swedish report describes it as consisting of a caravan of one single tank leading six armored trucks loaded with soldiers. It sounds fantastic, <sup>but</sup> ~~though~~ it may indicate that the Nazi unit is small, though fast-moving.

More important is the other valley, the one running to the northwest. There the key point is the City of Dombaas, which is a vital railroad center and is said to dominate the lines of communication in the country south of Trondheim.

Dombaas is held by the Allies and is the goal of the Nazi drive up the valley. They're encountering strong resistance, but scored new advances today. This is indicated by <sup>the latest</sup> ~~today's~~

communique issued by the British War Office. It reads:-

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"Allied troops in southern Norway have been heavily engaged south of Dombaas." The war office bulletin <sup>then</sup> describes the Nazi column in these terms:- "Strong enemy forces supported by medium artillery and armored fighting vehicles and low-flying aircraft." And the British army command states:- "Limited withdrawals have been necessary."

The latest dispatch is from the Norwegian high command, which declares that the Nazi column has been stopped thirty-five miles south of Dombaas.

The key to all this fighting is Trondheim - the city and the fjord. In that immediate neighborhood the land fighting has died down - with both sides entrenched in the town of Steinkjer, which the Germans captured from the British. The London war office <sup>that today</sup> bulletin states:- "In the area of Steinkjer there has been no engagement, but patrols are active." We hear that the British there are being reenforced, stronger. And one report tells that a unit of Alpine Chasseurs has been landed - the Blue Devils of France.

But there has been sea and air action in the Trondheim

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area, plenty of it. Today British warships and bombing planes delivered a thundering attack on the entrance of the Trondheim fjord. Naval guns boomed and air bombs crashed. It would be a great success for the Allies if they could storm their way into the fjord. It's quite a huge body of water, reaching far inland, a sort of miniature ocean which the Germans control with one destroyer - perhaps more. By use of the fjord <sup>Nazis</sup> they can put landing parties ashore at one place or another - to attack the Allied troops. And at various important points they can bring to bear the naval artillery such as destroyers carry. So no wonder the Allies are trying to force the Trondheim fjord - by blasting ~~the fjord~~ at the entrance.

There was one report today that a British cruiser has succeeded in making a dash through the entrance, and getting into the fjord - but this is not confirmed.

Perhaps the biggest news today for the Allies in Norway was - airplanes. The Allies have succeeded in getting squadrons of planes to their fighting forces, planes so badly needed ~~for something~~ to check the Nazi air dominance in Norway.

The Allies are badly handicapped by the scarcity of flying fields in mountainous, craggy Norway. The Nazis at the first blow seized all of the Norwegian air bases south of the high Arctic, and the Allies have had the task of finding places where they can place their planes. One report tells of British fighting sky craft using a frozen lake - ice for an airfield. The ice that still lingers on in spring. However, British reports today declare that the Allies have begun to solve the airport problem, and their ground forces in Norway are getting - warplanes.

London today was candid in admitting that the Norwegian war is beset with heavy difficulties for the Allies. In the quick emergency they had to throw in light forces, check the swift Nazi stroke. So they have had to take some setbacks, but London states that the war will be forced to an issue in Norway.

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FLYER

There's no certainty about the fate of Riiser-Larsen, the far famed Norwegian flyer. The official Norwegian agency announced that ~~XXXX~~ the noted airman had been killed in fighting near Oslo - on the day of the German invasion. He was described as in the front line of the defenders in the thick of the battle for a fort along the Oslo Fjord. That struck a note of tragedy - Riiser-Larsen, one of the first human beings to fly over the North Pole. <sup>Companion of Amundsen,</sup> ~~Viking~~ Viking hero of many a saga of the air.

Today, however, a Stockholm newspaper prints a story that Riiser-Larsen was seen alive and well yesterday. A friend of his, arriving at Stockholm, is quoted as saying that he saw the famous flyer, and had a talk with him. Riiser-Larsen told him that he was in Oslo when the Germans seized the city, <sup>but that</sup> ~~but~~ he wasn't in the fighting and certainly was not killed.

RIBBENTROP

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The Nazis have another diplomatic bombshell prepared, and are going to explode it tomorrow. <sup>And</sup> We'll have to wait <sup>i</sup> to see how much TNT there <sup>is</sup> in it.

In Berlin today an announcement was made with portentous solemnity. Newspaper correspondents were informed that tomorrow Hitler's foreign Minister Von Ribbentrop will make a public statement in the presence of the diplomatic corps. That did sound portentous and solemn, and a Nazi spokesman amplified: "The statement will be political and very important."

That quite naturally created a lot of curiosity and the newspapers went buzzing around. From unofficial sources they gathered that the Ribbentrop statement will concern some more diplomatic documents which the Hitler government is about to publish. And that reminds us of the <sup>German</sup> White Book of several weeks ago, with its allegations of what American Diplomats were supposed to have said about the United States going into the war. ~~The~~ The new Nazi documents are described as -- "throwing more light on the war guilt." <sup>Who's war guilt?</sup> This time it seems to be, not the United States, but the Allies. They say there'll be no American ~~angle~~ angle to the new Berlin revelation, which will concern Norway. The Nazis have been charging all along

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that Great Britain and France were prepared to invade the Scandinavian kingdom on their own account, when Hitler forstalled them. And tomorrow's Ribbentrop declaration may be a story about papers of state seized by the Germans in Oslo. *That's my guess.*



## METHODISTS

Today the delegates of the General Conference of the Methodist Church voted unanimously to set next Sunday aside as a day of self-denial and prayer. This - in behalf of war sufferers throughout the world. Next Sunday the Conference delegates will do without dinner - and save that much money. They'll donate the money to a fund to help war sufferers.

The conference likewise named the first Sunday in June - this to be a day of self-denial and prayer for all members of the Church, everywhere. All to help those who suffer from the horror of war.

PUBLISHERS

The big convention of the American Newspaper Association provided us with one important bit of information, a meaning of - dark horse. This being election year, all sorts of presidential timber <sup>has been here all weeks, at</sup> ~~were present at the New York rally of~~ the publishers <sup>convention</sup>. I myself <sup>had lunch with</sup> ~~saw~~ Senators Wheeler of Montana, Taft of Ohio, Capper of Kansas, Bridges of New Hampshire - Congressman Joe Martin of <sup>R.F.C. Jesse Jones of Texas,</sup> Massachusetts, and Postmaster General Jim Farley. And Wendell Wilkie, who has no political handle at all. It was he who provided the definition of "dark horse".

At the grand publishers' banquet he mentioned the fact that some people regard him as a possible dark horse for the nomination, and spoke as follows:- "A friend of mine," said he, "showed me the definition of dark horse as supplied by Sir James Bryce, in his great work <sup>book</sup> - THE AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH. Discussing American politics, Lord Bryce said:- 'The dark horse has respectability verging on colorlessness, and he is therefore a good sort of person to fall back upon, when able but dangerous favorites have proved impossible.'" With that one Wendell Wilkie got a laugh from all the dark horses present.

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~~For example,~~ a number of presidential possibilities were absent from the publishers' convention - like Secretary of State Hull, busy in Washington. And - New York District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey, *and Vice Pres. Garner,* who is vacationing in Colorado, *One political figure who is being mentioned is attending another* newspaper convention - in Indiana. He's Governor James of Pennsylvania. And tonight he's breaking the political silence that he has observed thus far. Governor James will speak his mind in a radio broadcast, and one can guess a few things that he'll mention - the fact that four hundred thousand men have got jobs in private industry in the past fifteen months in Pennsylvania. And - the figure of business firms that have moved out of Pennsylvania since he became Governor - not one, although some hundreds left the state previously. Also - the savings made in the cost of Pennsylvania relief. And no doubt he'll sound the Pennsylvania slogan - "Faith, hope and jobs."

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SCALISE

77 Last night we heard of a trial with a record breaking number of defendants. Tonight another record:

~~The New York news tells of~~ the most comprehensive <sup>ever</sup> indictment handed down by a grand jury. Against whom? Why, George Scalise, the much discussed labor leader who is President of the Building Service Employees International Union, affiliated with the A.F. of L. Just how comprehensive the indictment is, may be seen in these particulars. It charges extortion and conspiracy, and lists fifty-three separate counts. ~~It is a~~ fifty-two page document, making accusations in what is described as a million dollar <sup>New York</sup> labor racket.

Scalise, arrested last week, has been out on bail of forty thousand dollars. He's that same ~~A.F. of L.~~ labor leader who was so scathingly attacked by newspaper Columnist Westbrook Pegler, for which Peg in turn was attacked by ~~President~~ William Green, <sup>President</sup> of the A.F. of L. Scalise's racket, blasted by Pegler, is ~~xxxxxx~~ none too pretty. And now, the big-shot union chief is the mark of the most comprehensive indictment ever.

Named with him is Isador Schwartz, eastern representative of the Building Service Employees' Union. The indictment says that the two use <sup>d</sup> their union position to extort

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large sums of money from hotel operators and window cleaning  
contrators. They <sup>employed</sup> ~~use~~ the threat of strikes, saying - fork over  
the money or we'll call a walkout. So states the indictment.

One chunk of money is mentioned as having been paid to them  
by a doctor - the regular consulting physician for members of the  
union. Moreover, it is alleged that Scalise and the other ~~union~~  
leader appropriated money belonging to union locals. These are  
some of the allegations made in the fifty-two counts of the  
record-breaking indictment.

BASEBALL

It develops today that baseball heroism was witnessed at Wrigley Field, Chicago, yesterday. <sup>the</sup> story is cracked about Dizzy Dean who rose to the heights of courage in winning a five-hit victory from the Cincinnati Reds - old Diz, whose arm is sore and who is said to be through.

The United Press has a sports writer who certainly can rise to the occasion, when it comes to putting the old thrill of emotion into a baseball yarn. <sup>you</sup> can't do better than read

the ~~hard~~ <sup>throbbing</sup> heart ~~warming~~ episode as it's written by Steve Snider.

5872 # "In the seventh inning," Steve writes, "Dizzy threw his right arm away. That painful kink returned for a moment, and it was up to Dizzy to make his own choice - to quit, or keep pitching and risk a final injury that might end his career."

The story goes on to tell that old Diz threw his right arm away in the following fashion:- "Willie Meyers, the Cincinnati short-stop, hit an easy roller to the pitcher's box.

5872 Diz fielded the ball, and then threw wildly to first base.

His throwing arm dropped limply to his side - like a dead arm.

"Catcher Al Todd rushed to the mound," writes Steve

Snider.

"It hurts, it hurts," Dean grunted.

"Then get out of here, let somebody else finish,"

Todd ordered.

Dizzy paused to think. "I won't", he shouted, "I'll throw thing thing off first."

And Dizzy threw. The arm didn't fly off and Dizzy didn't complain again. He had his first victory of the season

in the bag. *A five hit win. It ended that way. Dizzy, ~~at his~~ but good.*  
Yep, the old do-or-die!

*And now Hugh what do you do?*

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