

AIR BATTLE

C.T. - Sunoco. Monday, Dec. 18, 1939.

~~The Nazis were not long in claiming revenge for the~~
~~loss of the Graf Spee.~~ Berlin lost no time after the news
from South America, ^{and} quickly put out a bulletin claiming a
spectacular ^{air} victory. (The Nazi high command declares that
~~an air~~ ^Q raid over Helgoland Bay by forty-four British bombing
planes was defeated with heavy loss to the British. German
anti-air craft guns and sea planes shot down at least thirty-
four of the Great British bombers. Only ten of the raiding
squadron ^{ing} ~~survived~~ to return to Britain.

As fast as this claim was announced, it was ridiculed
by the British. The London Air Ministry admits the loss of only
seven British planes in that Helgoland raid and claims that
twelve Nazis were shot down and that the bombers did severe
damage to the German sea plane base.)

LEIPZIG

The British also announce a victory which the Germans deny.

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The Admiralty declares that a British submarine penetrated into the mouth of the River Elbe, sunk a German cruiser, the LEIPZIG, and fired two more torpedoes which are believed to have damaged another heavy Nazi cruiser. ~~This claim~~ The Germans, for their part, say "No", it didn't happen.

(The Argentine authorities are interning the crew of the scuttled Von Spee on the Isle of Martin Garcia in the Rio de la Plata.) The island is regularly used by the Argentine immigration authorities. (Captain Langsdorf and his officers will be taken care of by a special arrangement. Langsdorff himself went ashore himself on the Argentinian side of the river, and is quoted as having said with a sigh of relief, "I am satisfied; I 've saved all my men."

However, four of his men are under arrest in Montevideo. The authorities of Uruguay seized them for blowing up of their ship.) One report from Montevideo explains that this is Uruguay's reply to a Nazi complaint, a protest by the German Minister against compelling the Pocket Battleship to leave when she did. In Berlin there was even some talk of claiming damages from Uruguay, twenty million dollars damages for the loss of the Graf Spee. But that talk is not taken seriously.

HITLER FOLLOW SPEE

Judging from one dispatch from Berlin, the loss of the SPEE was a bitter pill for the Nazi leaders. It is reported that there was a conference between Chancellor Hitler and the chiefs of his army and navy. The official announcement, which gave the German people the news that the GRAF SPEE was at the bottom of the sea, added the statement that the Uruguayan government didn't give the doomed battleship enough time to make the ship seaworthy.

The official Nazi papers denounced the British for gross violations of international law. ~~And they say Germany~~

~~may demand 25~~

CANADIANS

We learn today that Canadian soldiers are on the other side of the Atlantic. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, ~~made~~ ^{making} the announcement in the House of Commons, ~~today,~~ that the first division of the Canadian army had disembarked safely and smoothly in one of the British harbors.

METALS

There's a row brewing in England, keen indignation among certain business men. It is not without interest over here since it illustrates what some of our own business men might be up against in the ~~appalling~~ event of our being forced into the War.

The aggrieved Britishers in this instance are people interested in the metals. When the War broke out, the Chamberlain Government obliged everybody with metal holdings to turn them over to the Government. Anybody holding copper, lead, zinc, any kind of metal, had to hand them over to the Ministry of Supply at a price fixed by the Government. And now the Ministry of Supply has raised its maximum price limits for metals anywhere from twenty to forty per cent above what the Government paid for them. So today the ~~prizefighters~~ members of the Metal Exchange in London are raising Cain, talking about an inquiry in Parliament, and all that sort of thing.

FINLAND

Tonight's news from the Baltic does not hold out much Christmas cheer for Stalin. It looks as though the Soviet big boss will not have Finland thrust into his stocking on Christmas Eve.

One dispatch from the scene ~~of that struggle~~ is even more astonishing than the others. For it reports that the Finns have won a crushing victory on ~~what was supposed to be their most vulnerable~~

~~front~~ the Karelian Isthmus. The Red forces made two ferocious attacks in that region, trying to outflank the Finns around the

east^{ern} end of the Mannerheim Line.) The Bolshevik invaders have there

the strongest concentration of man power they've mustered since

almost a million men,
their attack started. But both these attempts ~~by the Reds~~ were

hurled back by the Finns. In fact, (an American correspondent, an eye-witness, cables a definite report that the Reds have been

kicked back across the Tipale River.) An eye-witness description

of the battle compares it to the German attack on Verdun in the

last war. (Wave after wave of Bolsheviks ~~was~~ hurled ~~against~~ the

Finnish lines, backed up by withering artillery fire. But the

Reds were repulsed with heavy losses.) The Finns are now saying

~~seriously~~ jocularly that they will have to invade Russia whether

they like it or not, because they haven't got room in Finland to bury all the dead Russians.

From the far north, however, there's a different story. There the Reds were successful, drove the defending Finnish soldiers over into Norwegian territory, where they were interned. On the other hand, it is reported that numerous Russians were also interned by the Norwegians, Russians who had had their fill of fighting. By this action up in the far north, the Reds have driven the Finns out of the narrow corridor of land fronting on the Arctic Circle between Soviet territory and Norway.

However, at two other important points, the Finns were successful. Twenty miles northeast of Lake Ladóga, they defeated a Soviet army that was trying to make an encircling movement around the tip of the lake. The other victory is more important still. It was one in that narrow waistline of Finland, where the Reds are trying to cut the country in two. The report from that front is that the Finns have cut the Russian supply line, ~~and~~ ^{and have} the Red invaders surrounded.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

The jobs laid on the shoulders of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are becoming more numerous. Ever since the War started there has been louder and louder talk about foreign espionage and sabotage by foreign agents in the United States. As a result of this fear, extraordinary measures are going to be taken to protect munitions factories, ^{and} avoid such disasters as the Black Tom explosion and others. There are four hundred and thirty key plants in this country manufacturing things for Uncle Sam's Army and Navy. And the job of protecting them has been put up to the ~~XX~~ F.B.I. If ever the United States would be involved in the War, ~~which God forbid,~~ the number of plants to be protected would be more than twelve thousand. *J. Edgar Hoover* ~~Officials~~ of the F.B.I. reports that every day *the Bureau receives some* ~~it receives no fewer than~~ *odd* two hundred ~~and fourteen~~ complaints of espionage, sabotage and other similar breaches of the law.

GEORGIA

The troops were out in Atlanta, Georgia, today, ~~Georgia~~ National Guardsmen on patrol, ~~in full uniform~~. Martial law was declared over one of the buildings of the State Government. ~~This isn't the first time such a story has come to the country from Atlanta. It seems to me I can recall telling about a similar instance several years ago, a row between the Governor of the state and one of his subordinate officials.~~

All because of
~~This time it's~~ an argument between Governor Rivers and W. L. Miller, Chairman of the Highway Board. The Georgia Governor fired the Chairman of the Highway Board. Chairman Miller refused to be fired, said the Governor hadn't the right to do it. *He*
~~Chairman Miller~~ even went to a judge of the Superior Court and obtained an injunction restraining other officials from interfering with his duties. Nevertheless, the Governor today called out the National Guard, stationed soldiers under the command of a Lieutenant-Colonel throughout the Highway Building. Chairman Miller showed the Lieutenant-Colonel a copy of the injunction, and asked him whether he proposed to defy a court order. The Lieutenant-Colonel replied that martial law supersedes the civil law

and as a Lieutenant-Colonel he had to obey the Governor and not the court. And that's where the quarrel stood at last reports - the National Guard on duty to see to it that an official of the state do ^{ea} not do any work. I am told there are some states in which it doesn't require the National Guard to prevent state officials from doing any work!

OKLAHOMA

tel
~~Most states and regions are tickled to death when the federal government starts building a dam or irrigation project anywhere near them. The State of Oklahoma is one exception, such an exception as to be real news.~~ *TP*

The New Deal had planned a flood-control navigation and power project on the Red River near Denison, Texas. This project, instead of arousing cheers, provoked loud laments from the folks of Oklahoma. The State wants to bring suit against the Secretary of War to prevent the starting of that flood control power project. The issue came up today before the Supreme Court of the United States. The Supreme Court is ~~not~~ *first* ~~going to decide the case yet. It is~~ merely going to consider how the suit should be brought. Uncle Sam's attorneys are claiming that Oklahoma should not sue the Secretary of War but ~~the~~ *should take* *action against the* Government itself. And of course the Government cannot be sued without its own consent.

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Oklahoma, land on which possibly there are large reserves of oil.

It would flood highways, bridges and rights of way. It would

make many people homeless and the State would have the problem

of moving and taking care of the homeless. — all because
of a Texas dam.

BROUN

Heywood Broun was unusual among newspaper-men -- and they are a breed of the unusual. He did a lot of things which made news; his death today is first-page news. And -- he ran for Congress on the Socialist ticket in a silk-stockings New York district, knowing perfectly well that he hadn't a prayer.

Then there was the matter of his painting. He hadn't even a vestige of training in the use of palette and brush. Nevertheless, he painted, offered his canvases for sale, and people bought them.

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In similar fashion he started his "Give a Job Until June" campaign. At first it seemed a startling, eccentric thing for a columnist to attempt. But it provided employment for several hundred people for at least a few months.

He was a huge fellow -- always carelessly though expensively dressed. ~~Twenty~~ Twenty-four hours after he got a new suit it would look as though he had taken it from one of the wagons of the Salvation Army. That gave rise to the phrase that Heywood looks like an un-made bed. I've always suspected that he ~~invented~~ invented the phrase himself. He told me once that

he had adopted an idea from one of Bernard Shaw's plays.

I believe it comes in "Fanny's First Play," wherein one of the characters says: "If you have a weakness, make a merit of it and it will make you famous." That isn't the exact quotation, but words to that effect. He always capitalized stories at his own expense. He always wrote freely about his losses at the racetrack and at poker. But as a matter of fact he was an exceedingly good, hard-pressing poker player.

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I knew him best as he played ball with us, on the Nine Old Men. How badly he played and how he loved it! Whatever he did he was always in there pitching.

HORSES

We've heard of various kinds of collectors - fanciers of paintings, postage stamps, old American kitchen chairs, and what-not. But here's something I'd never heard of before - the collector of merry-go-round horses. This comes to attention because of an art show that has just ~~been~~ ^{in the Heckscher Bldg.,} opened in New York, an exhibition called - ^{where I encountered the French Ambassador} "The Horse in Art," [^] It's for the benefit of the French Civilian Relief, and displays ~~all sorts of art works connected with our old friend, the horse~~ } ancient Chinese sculptures of warlike steeds, saddles in which rode warriors of medieval Persia, paintings of horses, all sorts of horsey art, nearly everything except the Wooden ~~Wood~~ Horse of Troy.

this afternoon.

But the wooden horses of Coney Island are there - the pride of the show. Art Expert Carl Freund, who runs the exhibit, told me ~~that~~ with jubilation how the great discovery was made. Somebody rummaging in a musty warehouse at Coney Island discovered half a dozen old merry-go-round horses, dating back to half a century ago. "Masterpieces," cried Carl Freund. "Magnificent wood carving, ~~and~~ ~~such as we used to see in the old time merry go round.~~ They are collectors' items," he informed me solemnly, and added: "You know there

are in this country several famous collections of merry-go-round horses."

"Really!" I exclaimed. "It's quite a hobby horse."

*So if you have any wooden horses
send 'em in.*

VENEZUELA:

I have just heard an extraordinary story. It was told to me by Dr. Tomas Pacanins^(Pack-a-neens), Consul General from the Republic of Venezuela. You may recall that terrible fire which occurred on the North coast of South America a few weeks ago when a whole town went up in flames, a town built on stilts out over the waters of Lake Maracaibo. The name of the town was Lagunillas, an oil town with a population of between four thousand and five thousand people. Dr. Pacanins tells me that Lagunillas had been a problem for many years. The buildings all extremely fragil, bad sanitation, and about everything else you could think of.

When Dr. Pacanins was Minister of Public Works, his government ordered him to build a brand new, modern town, on the mainland, near Lagunillas, move the population there, and destroy the rickety town on stilts. So the new town was built, a regular town of tomorrow: first a ~~rental~~ circle on which were the schools, churches and public buildings. Then a larger circle outside that for all the stores and other places of business. Then a still larger circle outside that for homes, all of modern brick construction, paved streets, uptodate sanitation, and lighting.

But, low and behold, the people from Lagunillas refused to move to the marvelous new town of Ciudad Ojeda, although everything ^{there} was to be given to them free. For over a year the new town stood empty. The oil workers, the floating population from all over the world, preferred to stay in their squalor, — perched out there over the lake. in the rickety town on stilts. Then came the fire a few weeks ago, the flames that wiped it all out. And now the population is moving to the town of tomorrow, Ciudad Ojeda, ~~built~~ built by this ~~xxx~~ distinguished Venezuelan engineer, Dr. ^{Pacanins,} ~~Packmanins~~ trained at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ~~and his colleagues~~

And now the town of tomorrow comes to life.

And now the Red-Blue of today and tomorrow, Hugh?