

HESS

L.I. - Sunoco.

Friday, Oct. 23, 1942.

The statement was printed in London today that relations between Great Britain and Soviet Russia ~~would~~ <sup>might</sup> be jeopardized by the question of Hess. The Moscow correspondent of the periodical called "New Statesman", sends warning that serious attention must be given to the Soviet demand for the immediate trial of Hitler's one-time lieutenant, who landed by plane in Scotland on that mysterious mission. <sup>IF</sup> "Many Russians to whom I have talked," says the Moscow correspondent, "do not believe that Hess came to Britain without preliminary arrangement with somebody in Britain. The secrecy surrounding Hess," he goes on, "has become a symbol of something very unhealthy."

The Soviet newspaper PRAVDA has raised the question - "What if Hess should turn out to be a representative of Hitler, and what if he should be used for some shady deal?"

To this the British correspondent in Moscow makes the following comment:- "As long as Hess is guarded in this mysterious way, the Russians worry about the next peace offensive, possibly at the expense of Russia and Japan."

DOOLITTLE

The Japs today named four more of General Doolittle's raiders, whom they claim to have captured. Only one of the names corresponds to that of an actual participant in the bombing of Japan. The Japs mentioned - George Barr. And on the War Department list of Doolittle raiders Lieutenant George Barr of New York is named. The other three names given by Tokyo do not correspond to any on the War Department list.

## PRISONERS

At the White House today, prisoners of war were a subject of discussion at the presidential news conference. What about the Japs announcing their intention to punish the few of General Doolittle's air raiders that they captured? The Jap enemy speaks of "severe punishment." ~~The President stated that this would be a violation of the Geneva Convention for the treatment of war prisoners. Japan did not sign the Geneva agreement, but the War Department has stated that apparently the Japs have been abiding by it.~~

The President was asked, "Suppose the Japs do carry out their threat, will we retaliate on Japanese prisoners that we have captured?" The President said that that question was up to the State Department.

He went on to discuss the shackling of prisoners by the British and Germans, <sup>and</sup> ~~he~~ said that at the time of the Dieppe Commando raid, the British

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put some prisoners in manacles while taking them to prison camps. This, said the President, was a measure of security and transportation, and did not violate the Geneva Convention. Whereupon the Nazis retaliated by shackling British and Canadian prisoners. But these were not being transported, and thus their shackling was a violation.

## CANADIAN SHACKLING

Canada today protested against the publication of a story about prison camp riots. This account, printed in an American magazine, told of disturbances raised by German prisoners of war. It all concerns the shackling of prisoners. When the British retaliated against the German shackling, <sup>most of</sup> ~~the~~ ~~retaliation~~ ~~was~~ ~~her~~ ~~British~~ ~~captives~~ in Canada did ~~most of the job~~ because most Nazi soldiers ~~who were~~ captured in battle have been sent to Canada.

The story is that when the Canadian authorities put manacles on German officer prisoners, the Germans rebelled -- put up a fight. After a good deal of violence, they were subjugated and ~~were~~ shackled. This account was printed by Time Magazine, and now the Canadian Government is officially protesting to the United States government against the publication -- which, it has been stated, was in violation of Canadian <sup>ship. P</sup> ~~censoring~~ Today the State Department in Washington, upon receiving the Canadian complaint, decline to make any comment.

R.A.F.

The enemy broadcast at Rome admits that last night's British bombing attack on north Italy did serious damage and caused many casualties. It was the hardest blow that the R.A.F. has struck at Italy since the beginning of the war. British bombers flew from England, all the way past the Alps. It was full moon, and they were aided by bright moonlight, which gleamed from the rivers and guided the British warplanes. They bombed Genoa and Turin. The attack on Genoa is considered especially significant, because that historic port is the headquarters for sending supplies to Rommel in Africa.

FRANCE

There are many signs that a new great outbreak of war may be about to flare in Africa. We hear that large United Nations forces are concentrated in the vicinity of Lake Chad. That's on the southern <sup>edge</sup> part of the Sahara desert, and might indicate a plan to strike north across the desert against Libya. This would cut in ~~h~~ behind Rommel's forces in Egypt, and threaten to isolate them. The troops mobilized in the Lake Chad area are said to consist of Free French and Americans.

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Today

There is a ~~fresh report~~ further report that Rommel has detached some of his Egyptian units and sent them south to guard against a United Nations blow from that direction. — from Lake Chad.

Among the other African signs are French activities at Dakar - on the west coast of the Sahara. The Vichy people are said to have mobilized ~~xx~~ five hundred planes there - five hundred of the seven



hundred they have in all the French African colonies. Vichy Admiral Darlan has been inspecting the defenses at Dakar, and is said to have given secret orders to the officers of the Battleship RICHELIEU, which is lying at that port. The RICHELIEU was disabled by British explosives quite a while ago, but is believed to be able to do some heavy firing with its guns.

London reveals that a powerful British fleet is operating off the east coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean, three battleships and an aircraft carrier. And this tends to put a focus of war interest on Africa - with special reference to what the other end of the Axis might try to do, the Japs.

South Africa shows signs of anticipating an African flare-up. The authorities at Capetown have ordered blackouts and are launching a drive against fifth column elements. They are moving national

treasures to <sup>hiding</sup> ~~secure~~ places, and along with these treasures they have removed the dodo. That's the extinct bird which has produced the familiar expression - "as dead as a dodo." At the Durban Museum in south Africa, they had on exhibition the most complete skeleton of the dodo in existence, and that's what they have taken away for safety - anticipating a new great flare of battle in Africa. It seems odd to find a new sign of war - in the dodo.

RUSSIA

There's next to no news from Soviet Russia, save that it is raining hard and the fighting seems to be <sup>almost</sup> ~~virtually~~ at a standstill. Berlin reports that the Nazi war machine is bogged down in the mud -- the war virtually rained out for the time being.

CHINA

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In China, American bombers have made their first raid against the Japs in the northern part of that great country. A powerful fleet of American warplanes flew the long' distance to north China, the border of Manchuria, and blasted an important mine now operated by the Japs. It is described as <sup>a</sup>~~the~~ most successful attack, and all the American <sup>^</sup>bombers returned safely.

## SOLOMONS

In the Solomons another Jap attack has been repelled. This was announced by the Navy late today. It was the second assault by the enemy, and like the first was in the nature of what they call -- "a feeler." ~~It was~~ Nothing important, just designed to feel out the strength of the American positions. The main Jap attack on our forces ~~at~~ the Guadalcanal air field is still to come -- if it ever does come.

The most activity, as usual, was in the air. Japanese bombers attacked ~~the~~ the Guadalcanal air field, and suffered considerable losses. Six enemy bombers were shot down and two damaged.

RICKENBACKER

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There is alarming word about Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, American ace of the air in the last war and prominent figure in this one. A late Army bulletin just in announces that Eddie Rickenbacker is overdue on a flight out over the Pacific. He was on a mission between Hawaii and another Pacific Island - the name of this island not being disclosed. <sup>TP</sup> The Rickenbacker plane was in radio contact with an American station until the early evening of October Twenty-First, two days ago. Eddie Rickenbacker then reported that he had a little more than one hour's supply of gasoline. And nothing has been heard from him since that time. A great search is on, with every available ship and plane out hunting for Eddie. ~~Rickenbacker.~~ He was on a mission for Secretary of War Stimson - to whom he has been a confidential advisor. Let's hope he'll be found.

DRAFT

President Roosevelt today announced opposition to proposals that would restrict the army in sending the nineteen and twenty year olds to battle. In the Senate there is an amendment introduced by Senator Thomas of Idaho, that would make the army give youth below twenty one year of training before assigning them to combat duty.

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And today Senator Norris of Nebraska <sup>x</sup> introduced an amendment of the same sort - but with a different age limit. The Norris proposal specifies that youths of nineteen should get a year of training before fighting. <sup>TR</sup> The army is opposed to this, Chief of Staff General Marshall saying that any such provision would present the military command with, what he calls, "an administrative impossibility."  
And today the President spoke in favor of the army view.

In today's debate on the bill to draft eighteen and nineteen year olds, Senator Hiram Johnson of California spoke in opposition. He said the drafting of youths would liquidate an entire generation," and would leave no one after the war -- "to send this great Republic on its way again", using the Senator's words.



## ARMAMENT

American war production is going to produce fewer tanks and fewer warplanes than the schedule calls for. This was stated today by President Roosevelt, who explained the reason why.

As for tanks, we are going to concentrate on the heavier types. The original schedule called for a large production of M-3 Tanks, but war experience in the Libyan desert has shown that we should change over to M-4s. These are more heavily armored and hit harder.

The same sort of thing applies to war planes. The president's original schedule called for the building of sixty thousand planes this year. The figure will be lower than that, but the planes turned out will have more gunpower, longer range, and greater effectiveness in combat.

## PRODUCTION

Here is a story of broken records. News from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, tells us that a huge blast furnace of the Bethlehem Steel Company has been ~~enlarged and relined~~ enlarged and relined in twenty-one days. That won't mean much to most people - who don't know their blast furnaces. But steel men will understand. Normally, the job would take two months, but in this war-time - eight hundred men in day and night shifts, did it in twenty-one days; an all-time record for this or any other country.

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From the deep South comes word that the builders of a twenty-four inch pipeline have laid a ten mile stretch in one day. The pipeline is to bring oil from the Texas fields, to the north. It's a twenty-four inch pipe, the biggest ever laid, and ten miles in one day breaks all records.

American industry, doing this sort of thing

every day, is winning the war on the home front.

And this is because the competitive spirit of our American free enterprise system has cut loose to show just what that system can do under pressure. It's the spirit that will win the war and solve the great problem of post war adjustment.

BENNETT

President Roosevelt today reiterated his support of Candidate Bennett in the New York race for Governor. He denounced what he called -- "a whispering campaign." He said that it is being whispered around that his support of Bennet, as previously declared, was what he called -- "formal and lukewarm."

"This is not true," declared the President today, and added: "There are no strings to this endorsement."

MRS. ROOSEVELT

Today's arrival of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt in London is supposed to have been kept a deep secret -- like those military secrets. However the word must have leaked out, because when the First Lady of our American land, having flown across the ocean, arrived at the Paddington station by train -- a huge crowd was there to greet her. And she was received with tumultuous cheers.


King George and Queen Elizabeth were there waiting as the train pulled in. So were Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and our American Commanders in Europe, Lieutenant-General Eisenhower and Admiral Stark.

When the king greeted Mrs. Roosevelt, it was noticed that she did not curtsy. King George said: "I hope you left the President in good health."

Mrs. Roosevelt states that the purpose of her visit <sup>is</sup> to study the work that British women are doing to win the war and also to visit American army

forces in England. She is accompanied by her secretary, Malvina Thompson, and by Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, leader of the American Waacs.

Late this afternoon, our First Lady had tea at Buckingham Palace, and tonight she dines with the King and Queen. Among the other guests will be Prime Minister Winston Churchill, South African Premier General Smuts, and the First Lady's own son --



Elliott Roosevelt.

During her two week stay in England, Mrs. Roosevelt will be a royal guest at Buckingham Palace. We are informed that she will be under the same war-time restrictions as the monarchs themselves. She will have a food rationing book. And her apartment will be subject to the same fuel rationing as <sup>Their Majesties'</sup> ~~the rest of~~ ~~Buckingham Palace~~. For example, no special heating until November 1st - and English rooms can be pretty chilly during the last week of October. But ~~then,~~ if you ~~don't~~ have chilly rooms, you'd hardly know you were in England. Even the bath of the First Lady will be restricted - no more than five inches of water in the tub. That makes a lot of water - when you're drinking it. But as for bathing - well, anyway, there is not much danger of drowning in ~~it~~ three inches, is there, Milt?

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