

GOOD EVEING EVERYBODY:\*

Have you heard the astounding news? That the Number Three Nazi has deserted, run out on Hitler -- or rather flown out. First the word was that Rudolf Hess had killed himself. Now London tells us he is not dead! But in Scotland. That he landed on Scottish soil Saturday night, with a broken ankle -- landed by parachute.

The news is said to come from Number Ten Downing Street. But with no explanation.

The first guess would be that Deputy Fuehrer Hess was taking it on the run, that he fled to Britain.

Hess now, we hear, is in a hospital in Glasgow with a broken ankle.

Here's the statement from Number Ten Downing Street:-

"Rudolf Hess, Deputy Fuehrer of Germany and party leader of the National Socialist party, landed in Scotland under the following circumstances: On the night of Saturday, the tenth, a Messerschmitt 110 was reported by our patrols to have crossed the coast of Scotland

and to be flying <sup>in</sup> the direction of Glasgow.

This report was at first disbelieved, so continued the announcement from Downing Street. Later on the Messerschmitt crashed near Glasgow with its guns unloaded. Shortly afterward a German officer who had bailed out was found with his parachute, suffering from a broken ankle. He was taken to a hospital in Glasgow where he first gave his name as Horn, but later declared he was Rudolf Hess. He established his identity with various photographs of himself at different ages. Later an officer of the foreign office who was closely acquainted with Hess before the war went up by airplane to see him in the hospital.

This afternoon it looked as though we were going to have an international mystery of the first order, one to rank with the Man in the Iron Mask -- that historic disappearance of the son of King Louis the Seventeenth of France, or, coming down to later date, the strange death of Italy's Air Marshal, Italo Balbo at the hands of Italian soldiers in Libya. Until just a moment ago we were wondering what happened to Rudolf Hess, third man in Hitler's Germany. The Feuhrer on September First, Nineteen Thirty-Nine, when Germany

went to War, proclaimed Rudolph Hess to be his successor, next to Goering. But, according to later rumors from Germany, Goering has been out of favor ever since his air armada failed to destroy Britain, last September.

This afternoon, it began to look as if we were to see another purge, like the blood bath with which Hitler shocked the world in Nineteen Thirty-Four. For hours we were puzzled as to why the strict Nazi censorship should have allowed the Berlin radio to report that Rudolf Hess, the personal representative and close friend of Adolf Hitler, had committed suicide. It was all baffling, but most absorbing. Not the least bewildering and interesting was the fashion in which the news was released. Let me skim over the bulletins as they came in.

First of all, it was announced at Nazi headquarters in Berlin, that Rudolf Hess was missing. He had left a city in southern Germany on an airplane flight about six o'clock Saturday night and had not yet returned. Half an hour later, listeners in London overheard the Berlin radio broadcasting that Hess, the Number Three Fuehrer, had committed suicide at six p.m. Saturday. Then Nazi Party headquarters

gave out another statement that Hess crashed by accident or met with some other misfortune and that a letter he left behind showed traces of mental derangement.

An hour later came the announcement as published by the German official news agency. This repeated the statement that Hess had crashed or otherwise met misfortune and that he had left behind letters indicating that he was a victim of mental illusions. Remarkable that such a statement even if true, should have been issued about so prominent a Nazi.

Of course that left the field wide open for all sorts of conjectures and surmises. Observers began pointing out one most obvious fact that the removal of Hess would leave Goering as the only possible successor to Hitler. Also, that it would leave Hitler without a personal deputy in charge of Nazi Party affairs. In this domain Hess was even closer to Hitler than Goering. In fact, he was the Fuehrer's oldest living associate. Hitler and Hess went to jail together after the Munich Beer Hall Putsch in Nineteen Twenty-Three, and in the years that followed they drew constantly closer. Through all the Nazi vicissitudes, those stormy first years, Hitler and Hess

continued close and intimate. Never even the slightest rumor of dissension between them.

Hess appeared to be an unambitious man who didn't push himself before the public. He had wide powers, but he always gave orders as coming from Hitler.

Today we were also recalling the death early in the war of Colonel General Werner von Fritsch. Special announcements were that he was a war casualty. Worldwide gossip had it however that he was murdered by the Nazi Gestapo because he was not sympathetic to Nazi control, and did not approve of the war.

And now the startling news, that Hitler's closest friend, his third in line for the dictatorship, has not committed suicide, as Berlin told us this afternoon, but has flown to England -- landed in London - by parachute.

Why did the Number Three Nazi flee? All the world wonders.

## PARLIAMENT

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The British Houses of Parliament tonight are not merely damaged. They're a shambles. That's how American correspondents describe them after looking at the ruins. One account says that the Chamber of the House of Commons looks more like the remains of a medieval monastery dismantled by Henry the Eighth than the picturesque room where Pitt, Gladstone, Lloyd George and Winston Churchill have thrilled a nation with their oratory.

The ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ havoc was done by seven high explosive bombs and a shower of incendiaries. The air raid workers report there was little doubt that the Nazi bombs were aimed deliberately. Today nothing was left of the roof or the panelling of that historic debating chamber except a couple of charred timbers high up on the wall. The floor had been smashed down into the rooms below. Where the debating floor had been there was a weird jumble of charred wood, twisted light steel girders and battered ornamental ironwork. It was not possible to enter the Chamber. One could only gaze in from the charred lobby behind the speaker's seat. The corridors behind the Chamber still are filled with pools of sooty water and the benches along the

walls are thick with plaster dush.

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The Lords Chamber fared far better. The gorgeous room with its ornamental oak woodwork is almost intact except for windows.

Last night's radio address by Ex-President Hoover has the nation talking. Reports from all over the country indicate that the public was caught particularly by that part of ~~Mr.~~<sup>Mr.</sup> Hoover's broadcast in which he pointed o t that if we take active part in the war, we won't be able to send so much help to Britain.

Of course those in favor of intervention jumped on the Ex-President. One interventionist newspaper called his reamarks, " acounsel of frustration, confusion and despair."

On the other hand ~~of~~ the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM, which favors "maximum aid to Britain ~~short~~ of war", welcomes the reply made by Ex-President Hoover, as it says, to the minority of citizens and officials ~~who~~ think we are in the war already and that we should set the Navy to shooting.

## SHIPS

The bill to seize all foreign ships lying idle in United States harbors is now on its way through the Senate. Passed by the House last week, today the Commerce Committee of the Senate gave its okay to the measure; approved it by a vote of eleven to four. The opponents of the bill tried to hamstring it with amendments such as one forbidding the President to transfer these ships to belligerent powers, meaning of course Great Britain. But the amendments were squelched in committee.

## ARNOLD

Major General Arnold, head of Uncle Sam's Army Air Corps, has been on a secret mission to Great Britain for three weeks. Today he gave out some information to the Woman's Democratic Club information of interest to all of us. The situation, said the head of our Air Corps, is critical both for the United States and for Great Britain. He refused to predict the future; but he did say that our air service is rapidly getting ready for trial by battle. And he reported that American planes in Europe are giving a good account for themselves. The famous flying fortresses, said Arnold, have already won their spurs by accomplishing most difficult missions over Germany.

General Arnold went on to say that although he's a patient man, he loses patience with croakers who are blating that the Air Corps is not properly trained or equipped and that our planes are inferior to those of England or Germany. But, he did go on to remark that we must do even more than we are now doing. <sup>That</sup> For every ton of bombs they might drop on us, we must be able to drop two tons on them.

Before long there'll be no limit to the size of Uncle Sam's army. Hitherto, as you know, there has been a definite legal limit on the numbers of our land forces. But Congress is about to take the lid off. The first step in that direction was taken today when the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives approved a bill removing all restrictions.

And, Congress has been asked to amend the Selective Service Law. The request comes from Brigadier-General Hershey, Deputy Director of the Selective Service Administration. He wants an amendment to permit the President to order that men whose numbers are called may be deferred by age groups -- meaning that lads in the younger age brackets are considered best fitted for training and service.

## STRIKES

More strike stories today. The calendar of the Defense Mediation Board is filled up for at least two weeks with fourteen disputes, either being heard or waiting to be heard.

The latest trouble has closed up eleven shipyards in and around San Francisco. It's a walkout of the machinists. They represent only about fifteen per cent of the men working in those shipbuilding plants. But other union men won't walk through the picket lines so the eleven shipyards are closed down.

In Cleveland, machinists have gone out, closing a factory turning out parts for submarines and tanks.

Also work has been interrupted at the Navy Yard annex in South Boston.

## AUTOMOBILES

Before long we'll have to cut down our production of motor cars, not by twenty per cent but by forty per cent. That's the latest from the Office of Production Management.

The Senate Committee investigating defense production today listened to intelligence from W. L. Batt, Deputy Director for Production. He said that a year from now, all the aluminum we can lay our hands on will have to be used for aircraft and direct military needs. There'll be none for civilian needs and for that matter not even enough for indirect military needs.

The Deputy Director of Production then told the Senators that we haven't yet set ourselves a high enough objective in our defense program. The Germans, he pointed out, are spending four hours out of every eight-hour day turning out weapons. While we are spending only five minutes out of an eight-hour day. That's the way he put it.

LADYFINGER

For a number of years, a mob of thieves has been working the swagger New York night clubs. The police declare that they've taken from rich people more than a million dollars in the last thirty-six months. There was a real Edgar Wallace color to their operations. They depended largely upon the cunning work of a female member, a moll as they call <sup>her,</sup> ~~them~~ more specifically a finger woman. This finger woman would frequent the fashionable night resorts, dressed according to the last word in ~~the~~ fashions. From the crowds of rich spenders in the high <sup>x</sup> clubs this finger woman would select and point out a well-to-do male or female victim ,

This thieves' moll was known to the underworld as "Madame Ladyfinger". Some time ago, Madame Ladyfinger attended a night club and with the wave of an elegant lace handkerchief pointed out to her confederates Mrs. James Forrestal, wife of the Under-Secretary of the Navy. When Mrs. Forrestal left the club she was robbed of jewelry to the tune of seventy-five thousand dollars.

But Madame Ladyfinger was laid by the heels, brought to book, tried and convicted. Today, a New York judge sentenced Madame Ladyfinger to a term of from ten to thirty years in prison.

She had been charged once before with grand larceny in another state. But in that case the crime involved under a hundred dollars. The judge said if the loot had only been one cent over a hundred dollars, he could have given her from thirty to sixty years instead of ten to thirty.

Said Madame Ladyfinger as she was taken from the court to begin serving her sentence:- "That guy certainly likes to give you the works."

And Hugh, what are you going to give us?