

L.J. - Lunoco. Friday, Nov. 29, 1940.

WAR

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One important element in the war news tonight is a series of flat contradictions. At the western end of the English Channel, light units of the British and German fleets had a clash today. London states that Nazi destroyers, trying to make a raid under cover of mist and fog, were engaged by British destroyers, and were defeated and forced to flee. Berlin reports, on the contrary, that the German ships attacked the British flotilla and torpedoed two British destroyers. So both sides cheer the same action as a victory.

The contradiction is even worse in the case of the naval fight in the Mediterranean. Last night we had an Italian claim of a victory at sea, a story of Fascist shells and bombs blasting British warships - including a big battleship said to have been set afire. Today the British gave their final version of the fight stating that six Italian ships were damaged, destroyers and cruisers and a powerful battleship. The battleship was torpedoed and crippled, says London. Add this one to the three Italian battleships heavily damaged in the raid on Taranto, and four out of the six battleships the Italians have are out of

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the war. Only two Fascist battleships left. So argues London.

TF So once more it's a case of both sides claiming victory. In addition we hear that Italian destroyers bombing the Greek Island of Corfu, were driven away by a squadron of British bombers.

TF Britain's victory jubilation takes the form of increasing demands that Britain shall strike a decisive blow to put Italy out of the war - smash the Italian fleet and air force completely.

The Greek-Italian battle becomes increasingly stubborn. We are told that today Italian transports landed heavy forces of troops, which were immediately hurried to the fighting front to check the Greek attacks. In one area ^{another} A retreating Fascist column is said to be in danger of being cut off. Last night we had a dramatic story of the Greek capture of the Italian base at Argyrokastron. Yet tonight this seems not so certain. Rome claims that Argyrokastron has not been captured, and reports tells of bitter fighting in the vicinity of the town.

The ~~B~~ bombing of London began early this evening.

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The nights are very long in Britain right now, and darkness falls at an early hour. The long nights give all the more

opportunity for ~~night~~ ^{in the darkness,} bombing, and the Nazi planes came over in continuing waves, as regular as clockwork, says London.

They began as usual with incendiary bombs setting fires to guide the other squadrons. And they dropped flares, scores

of flares to light their targets. The London story gives us

a spectacular detail - anti-aircraft guns shooting out the

flares. They say the streams of tracer bullets ^{shattered} ~~shot out~~ the

flares almost as fast as they were dropped by the bombers

high above. The indications are that London is having a heavy

night of bombing.

PLANES

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The amount of warplanes that Great Britain is getting from the United States is ~~work~~ of world interest, and tonight we have an official report issued by the State Department in Washington. It gives the figures for October. These show two things. First, that the rate of delivery of planes to Britain increased sharply during October. Secondly, that, in spite of the increase, Britain got barely one-fifth of the amount of air equipment that was authorized. The figures are expressed in dollars. The amount of aircraft authorized by the government for export to Britain came to something more than fifty million dollars' worth. The amount ~~of aircraft that was~~ actually sent across comes to a shade more than ten million ~~dollars' worth~~ - a trifle less than one-fifth.

In other words, shipments are increasing rapidly, but they're still far below the amounts authorized by the government.

We hear from Washington that it's all set for Canada to get ~~x~~ the hundred and forty-four military planes built in the United States for the Swedish Government.

RUMANIA

There are sensational rumors about the wave of terrorism in Rumania. Two thousand people ~~were~~ killed, says a story that emanates from Hungary. We are told that the Iron Guard outbreak has been far more serious than the Rumanian censorship lets on. There are stories of pitched battles in various places between Iron Guard cohorts and ~~XXXXX~~ Rumanian army units. This story of two thousand killings is, of course, merely an Hungarian rumor.

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But from Rumania itself we have a late dispatch which states that *at least* a hundred and ninety-eight persons have been killed in the murderous outbreak of terror.

There were strange scenes in Bucharest today, funeral rites for the Iron Guard Chieftain Codreanu who was killed in King Carol's time. It was to avenge Codreanu that Iron Guardsmen staged the massacre of sixty-four persons - at Codreanu's grave.

Today at the funeral rites the extremists who did the killings were present, allowed to take part. In honor of their former leader, *Codreanu,* Iron Guard radicals began what they called "a black fast." They'll take no food until Sunday.

The Bucharest government, under Iron Guard domination,

is trying to control the extremist elements, but the situation

is still threatening. German troops continue to arrive to

preserve order in case things should get worse. We have a

Bucharest denial of rumors that King Michael is preparing to

~~leave~~ ^{flee} Rumania - the boy King who, when the present troubles

began, took ~~place~~ the place of his father - exiled Ex-King Carol.

The boy King has no intention of leaving, says Bucharest, and

calls the rumor - ridiculous.

MEXICO

In Washington the State Department makes light of the anti-American demonstrations in Mexico City - the uproar that has greeted the arrival of Vice-President-elect Henry Wallace, as American delegate to the inauguration of the new President, Camacho. State Department officials today characterized the disturbances as - trivial ^{and} ~~xx~~ inconsequential - although

Mexican grouds did hurl stones at the American Embassy, ~~and~~ *man-handled two embassy attaches and* shouted against the United States recognition of the election of Camacho. The trouble-makers were supporters of the defeated Candidate Almazan. They ^{yelled} ~~shouted~~ that the Americans had betrayed Almazan, and were interfering with the internal affairs of Mexico.

Today there were further manifestations of ill-will. Buildings placarded with abuse against the United States and against the chief of the American delegation, the ~~xxx~~ Vice-President-to-be - Henry Wallace.

TAXES

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Tonight at the White House, they're having a supper that comes under the heading of news. At the table the President is entertaining a party of tax experts - from Congress, the Treasury, and the Budget Bureau. The tax experts are not there merely to have supper with the President. It's a conference to discuss plans for paying the national bill. The crux of the matter is, of course - the bill for national defense: ^{TP} How is the vast armament program to be financed? We don't know what will be proposed, accepted and rejected at the President's meeting with the tax experts - save for one thing. If a sales tax is proposed, the President will reject it. He said today that he's against any idea of financing national defense by enacting a nationwide sales tax.

DIES

Chairman Dies of the Dies Committee went to the White House today and had a long conference with President Rooxevelt -- fifty minutes long. The President and Chairman Dies have been at odds about the doings of the Committee in exposing fifth column activities - Nazi, Fascist and Communist. The White House opinion is that the Dies Committee has been working at cross purposes with that other agency for combating subversive activities -- the F.B.I. The President sent a wire to the Congressman suggesting that the Dies Committee exposures and publicity might do more harm than good. Hence today's conference -- an attempt to work out some sort of collaboration.

Upon emerging from the White House, he indicated that he was willing to cooperate with the President but that he would not stop the job of publicizing the doings of the Nazis, Fascists and Communists. He said the public is behind the work of the Committee and that they will go right ahead with what he called -- "fearless disclosure."

ROOSEVELT

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The White House news today brings us a reminder, which at the first sound may seem odd - no President of the United States has ever flown in an airplane. No President has ever gone winging through the sky. This is recalled because now it may be altogether different. President Roosevelt stated today that it is possible he may take to the sky and travel by plane. F.D.R. is not inexperienced^d in flying - he has done it before. Remember that celebrated occasion eight years ago, when he flew from Albany to Chicago to accept the Democratic nomination for the presidency? So it's appropriate enough for him to be the first President to fly.

It all concerns the defense inspection trips that ~~he~~^{intends} ~~President Roosevelt is going~~ to make. Because of the war crisis, it has been his custom not to travel far from Washington - so that he could always get back to the national capital in a hurry if anything should break. His rule has been - not to go any farther from Washington than twelve hours by train. But there are a lot of defense works more distant than that; ^{so} ~~so~~ the President is going to amend his rule this way - no farther from Washington

than twelve hours by plane. In other words, he will take long trips to inspect defense, but will be ready to fly back to Washington in case of an emergency.

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In telling this to the White House ~~MEM~~ press conference today, the President mentioned - the Secret Service. Those eagle-eyed sleuths are always on the alert to guard the safety of the President. So what will they say about the possibility of presidential flying? Mr. Roosevelt remarked that the Secret Service had never told him directly that he could not travel by plane, ^{and} ~~but~~ he thought he could come to some arrangement with them. He suggested with a presidential grin that the Secret Service, with all that vigilance of theirs - might want to put a convoy of protecting planes around the skycraft in which he might fly. They might even want to hang the presidential plane onto a *giant* parachute; or, better still, make it stay on the ground and travel by the highways. - ~~Just~~ the old Secret Service.

MINING

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Tonight at Columbus, Ohio, there's a familiar sad story of men trapped in a mine. A terrific explosion ~~xxx~~ ripped through a coal mine this afternoon. There was a cave-in and twenty-five miners were caught in an underground prison. One miner who escaped states that the explosion was caused when a mass of slate broke loose and fell on some high tension wires. It broke the wires and there was a short circuit - which touched off the blast.

At last reports heroic efforts were being made to reach and rescue the miners in the trap.

STAR

And now let's get away from the troubled tydings of this ~~weary~~ ~~agitated~~ world, and see what's new ~~x~~ among the stars - out there where the constellations flash and the milky way sweeps shimmering across the sky. Well, there's bad news for that magnificent star called Antares in the constellation Scorpio. For a long time Antares has twinkled proudly as the largest of all the heavenly bodies - for so astronomers reckoned. But tonight Antares is blinking rather sadly, humbly, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a melancholy star. Because today that magnificent luminary in the constellation Scorpio was displaced from its haughty position as the biggest of the stars - ~~removed from its premier position,~~ demoted, no longer at the head of the class.

Who did that to Antares? The answer is a bit of a shocker - a college sophomore, a mere under-graduate one step above a freshman. We usually quote a professor, but this time it's a sophomore. He did that to Antares, bringing sadness to the constellation Scorpio. George Herbic, a student of astronomy at the Los Angeles branch of the University of California, has been doing some new and complicated mathematics based on brand new

observations of the heavens, and today he submitted his intricate calculations to the Astronomical Society of the Pacific Coast. And these calculations were the bad news for Antares.

But what is the biggest star, the greatest of the heavenly bodies? The college sophomore answers, Ras Algethi of the constellation Hercules. Well, Hercules was a big brawny fellow, and perhaps it's appropriate that he should have the greatest of the heavenly bodies. The U. of C. student, with his new mathematics, calculates that Ras Algethi is six hundred and ninety million miles in diameter, and that's a lot of diameter, even for a star. Fancy saying ~~that~~ to a Hollywood star, - you're six hundred and ninety million miles in diameter! Wouldn't she have a lot of reducing to do? The Astronomical sophomore says that Ras Algethi is so big ^{you} ~~he~~ could put inside it the sun and the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars, ^{and have them} revolving in their orbits. ~~If you don't believe it,~~ ^{up} ~~you can go out there and revolve in your own orbit.~~ ^{^ ^}

The second largest star, according to the sophomore,

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is Mira. The third largest is our old friend ^{Betelgeuse.} ~~whose name is~~
~~most easily pronounced as, Beetlejuice.~~ And what about
Antares, the former champ? It's a sad story - he's reduced
to fourth position. Poor Antares - no wonder he's blinking
rather hopelessly tonight. *Rather like Mussolini!*

GOATS

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Near Hornell, New York, there seemed for a while to be a new addition to the science of zoology - a new species of animal, another kind of goat. Rather remarkable, ^{too: —} a goat with red horns. This peculiar species was observed by deer hunters roaming among the hills, and it appeared to be a zoological discovery - the ^{d-} re horned goat. But no, not at all. One fellow with a rifle spotted a sign posted by a farmer. The sign read - "Hunters please be careful of the goats! I painted all their horns red." so this item of scientific news turns out to be nothing more than the rather wistful case of a farmer trying to keep his animals from being shot by the deer hunters.

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59 1/4
And from red-horned goats we turn to Neu-Blu Sunoco.