

FRANCE

P.T. - Sunoco. Friday, Oct. 14, 1941.

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A melodramatic story comes from France, where such tragic melodrama is being enacted. A rumor from Vichy states that Marshal Petain intends to cross over into the occupied territory and surrendered himself to the Nazis as a hostage. He wants to offer his life to save the lives of the Frenchmen who are being executed in reprisals. This report has no confirmation, but it was persistent in Vichy today.

Meanwhile, the fifty hostages that were to have been executed last night have been spared - for the moment. The Nazi military leaders yielded to an urgent plea made by the Petain Government, and deferred the execution - to allow more time for the capture of the two assassins who killed the German military commander at Nantes. And it's much the same story at Bordeaux, where a high German officer was killed. There fifty hostages were shot in retaliation, and fifty more were doomed unless the killers were apprehended. These latter executions have been deferred to allow more time for hunting the assassins.

WAR

*There is general agreement*

~~All hands agree~~ tonight that the battle of Moscow

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is in a condition of stalemate. Berlin says it's because of the weather - heavy and continuous rain, which has turned the Moscow area into a morass. The Germans paint a picture of mechanized equipment ~~is~~ bogged in the mud. They indicate the drive to take the Soviet capital will not be resumed until the ground freezes - as it may at any time now, with winter coming.

It's rather odd to hear the blitzkrieg people say they ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> waiting for cold and ~~freeze~~ frost to aid them - that famous General Winter ~~who is~~ traditionally *regarded as* supposed to be Russia's number one ally. However, winter-cold does freeze mud and make the ground hard, and Berlin says that as soon as that happens, the mechanized forces will be on their way again.

Soviet accounts represent the Nazis as being in general, about sixty miles from Moscow - while the Germans repeat their claim that they are within thirty-five miles of the Soviet capital ~~at~~ at one point.

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The area of action in the Russian war is at the extreme south of the battlefront. There the Red Army reports that the Nazis are launching heavy attacks against the vital city of Rostov - at the Mouth of the River Don. Soviet dispatches describe the battle as raging at two places in particular. One - a point forty miles West of Rostov. The other - at a town just North of the city that's the gateway to the Caucasus.

The emphasis of war is swinging more and more to the southern area - the road to the Caucasus and the Baku oil fields. Observers declare they now see this reflected in the shifting of Red Army Generals. It appears that Stalin has removed all ~~tax~~ three of his top ranking leaders from their commands - Voroshilov, Timoshenko and Budenny.

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Timoshenko, taken away from the Moscow front, is now <sup>w</sup>~~x~~ said to be the new commander of the southern area, displacing Budenny, whose Armies were beaten heavily by the blitzkrieg. Budenny, himself, and Voroshilov, who commanded at Leningrad, are described as having new jobs - given <sup>the</sup> tasks of raising fresh forces with which to oppose the Germans.

~~The~~ Opposition is particularly needed in the southern sector, where the Nazi war machine is expected to slash into the Caucasus to seize the oilfields and maybe go on for a winter drive against the British in Persia.

WAR SUPPLIES

President Roosevelt disclosed today that an enormous expansion of the Armament Program is planned. He told a news conference that the present huge output of materials of war will be vastly increased--redoubling the effort to provide arms to the ~~XXXXXX~~ Nations that are fighting Hitler. This will include all categories of war ~~supplies~~ supplies--guns, planes, tanks. But especially tanks. The President said that the present schedule of tank manufacture would be doubled.

With this comes word that the story of yesterday about Soviet shipments from Boston was wrong. The Maritime Commission stated <sup>d</sup> that all material to aid the Red Army would be sent from Boston. Now, however, the Maritime Commission <sup>now</sup> says it made a mistake in giving out the announcement.

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Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox <sup>declared</sup> ~~stated~~ today that he believed war with Japan to be a certainty. He put it in these words: "We are satisfied in our own minds that the Japanese have no intention of giving up their plans for expansion. If they pursue that course," the Secretary added, "a collision is inevitable."

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From the Senate we hear that the Administration Leaders are now definitely planning action to permit American Merchant vessels to go into the war zones. We are told that a Senate survey indicates a majority in favor of the proposal--fifty-five Senators ready to vote to allow ships under the American flag to carry goods to belligerent ports.

LABOR

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President Roosevelt has just called upon John L. Lewis and Myron C. Taylor to get together in an attempt to halt a soft coal strike. John L. Lewis is, of course, the head of the United Mine workers. Myron C. Taylor has been President Roosevelt's special emissary to the Vatican. *Now* He's in the ~~strike~~ strike picture because he used to be Chairman of the board of the United States Steel Corporation. And the labor difficulty concerns the steel corporation's coal mines. The President wants the union chief and the former Chairman to devise a way to defer the strike - which is scheduled to begin Saturday.

In the Bendix aviation strike in New Jersey, blame is placed on the employers. It <sup>had</sup> ~~has~~ been reported that the strikers would be called under the selective service law if they didn't go back to work. But today Washington ordered selective service officials not to do anything about the strikers - because the defense mediation board holds that the company is responsible.

HAM FISH

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In Washington today the Secretary of Congressman Hamilton Fish was indicted. He is George Hill, and he's accused of perjury in connection with a misuse of ~~F~~ranked mail. That is--mail which is sent free through the Post Office under the privilege of ~~F~~ranking. Every legislator is allowed to do that. And the charge is that the Free Mail Franking business has been abused in sending out myriads of copies of speeches delivered by non-interventionist lawmakers. Nazi Propaganda agents are said to have had a hand in this.

In a courtroom wrangle about bail, Federal Attorney ~~Max~~ Maloney said: "there is no desire to involve any congressman whatsoever. Perhaps," he added, "it's Mr. Fish's misfortune, but that is not our fault."

This was followed by a statement issued by Representative Hamilton Fish. He said he was, in his own words, "one hundred per cent behind George Hill. "I know him to be an honest and very reliable person," declared Ham fish--defending his secretary.



LAGUARDIA

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As expected, President Roosevelt today endorsed LaGuardia for Mayor of New York. And thereby he took sides against the ~~de~~ candidate of his own party in the big town. At his Press Conference today, President Roosevelt permitted himself to be quoted directly - "I don't hesitate to express the opinion," he said, "that Mayor LaGuardia and his administration have given the city the most honest, and I believe, the most efficient municipal government of any within my recollection."

The President explained that although he is not a resident of New York City, he has quite naturally observed the ways of city government in the Metropolis. He contended that the New York election has nothing to do with National politics, and that his stand is taken merely on a basis of civic welfare.

The President was asked about Edward J. Flynn, Chairman of the Democratic National committee who was the Roosevelt campaign manager last year. Reports have been that Flynn would resign his National Chairmanship if the President came out for LaGuardia in opposition to Democratic candidate O'Dwyer. The

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President rather frowned on the suggestion that Flynn might resign, and said there wasn't any story in that.

## ILLITERACY

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An inspiring bit of American history was echoed in a Los Angeles divorce court today. The Judge, in dismissing a suit for divorce, referred back to a President of the United States. The complaint, entered by the wife - was - that her husband was illiterate.

Now what President of the United States did the Judge refer to? What President began his career as a man who could neither read nor write?

Andrew Johnson, of course, Successor to Abraham Lincoln.

The Judge today said: "Lots of women have married illiterate men, and many of the marriages have been most successful". That of Andrew Johnson, for example, He was a pioneer frontiersman, and married a girl of good education - and she taught him to read and write. From her he learned his A-B-C's so well that he became a successful lawyer, a profound student of constitutional questions - and finally President of the United States.

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In today's Los Angeles ~~divorce~~ divorce trial wifie testified that before they were married hubby told her that he had "a liberal education". Apparently she never found

out the difference until they were on their honeymoon - *when she discovered that hubby couldn't and he couldn't read a menu. Then -- she had to read the read a menu!* funny papers to him. ~~Not at all like Andrew Johnson, who studied the constitution.~~

NAVY

Navy Day, which is being celebrated over the weekend, will have one predominating theme - ~~xx~~ a call for recruits. And the reason for that call is to be found in one of the most inspiring facts in the news these days - the commissioning of warships ~~ahead~~ ahead of schedule. Units of sea power for our ~~two-ocean~~ two-ocean fleet are being built and launched ahead of expectation. So Navy recruiting has also got to jump ahead of schedule - to provide the greater number of men needed for the magnificent new ships.

Today we have an announcement that should send a lot of fellows to the recruiting stations. The Navy department announces that from now on all men who enlist in the reserve and go into active service, will be released as soon ~~xx~~ after the emergency as they can be spared. They won't necessarily be kept for the regular enlistment period - not unless they want to stay. They'll be able to go back into civilian life as soon as the emergency is over.

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JUMP

x At Harvey, Illinois, today it certainly must have seemed as if "the man from Mars" had landed. Actually, he was Arthur Starnes--making a record-breaking parachute jump and a scientific experiment. Loaded with technical devices, covered with apparatus that registered technological data.

The reason for it all was that the military aviation authorities wanted to know what would happen to a war pilot who might be forced to bail out during an air battle at extremely high altitudes. ~~XXXX~~ Moreover, some professors of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University were curious about the physiological changes that would take place during a drop from the stratosphere. So parachute expert Arthur Starnes was groomed for the job of making a record-breaking delayed parachute jump-- with all the scientific equipment. He was to leap from a plane, and fall like a rock as far as he could--only opening his parachute as he approached the earth.

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It happened today, and Starnes was loaded with eighty three pounds of apparatus. He wore double lens ~~of~~ goggles, a heavy face mask, oxygen apparatus, an electrically heated jumping

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suit, cardiograph to register his heart action, the dial of an altimeter strapped to his wrist, a barograph, a short wave radio transmitter, and a motion picture camera. Dressed up in *that* fashion--he certainly looked like "the man from Mars".

It took two hours for the plane to climb into the substratosphere--more than thirty thousand feet aloft, six miles. At that height, "the man from Mars" vaulted into space. Almost empty space--so rare was the atmosphere. Aviators commonly have to breath oxygen when they get to an altitude of fifteen thousand feet, and today's jump began at more than twice that altitude. So Starnes had plenty of need of his oxygen apparatus. It worked all right, and he breathed easily.

It was <sup>d</sup>ismally cold up there, but his electrical flying suit kept him warm enough. Later, after he had landed, he said, "aside from getting my hands cold, I felt fine," However,

his goggles gave him trouble, and that was embarrassing, because ~~he~~ *as he came hurtling, end over end from the* atmosphere <sup>he</sup> had to see the ground to decide when to open his parachute.

"My goggles froze over on the way down," Starnes related afterwards. "I had to lift one side and take a one-eye squint at the ground to guage how high I was and when I should pull the rip

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cord." He didn't pull the rip cord until he was fifteen hundred feet from the earth. In the parachute jump of six miles, he fell like a plummet for more than five miles. He dropped at the rate of a hundred and twenty to a hundred and thirty-five miles an hour. "I was in a terrific body spin," he says. And that gave him quite a jolt when the parachute opened. But everything worked out all right, and the "man from Mars" floated to earth. He was eight minutes in coming all the way down.

Tonight military aviation experts and the scientists from the Universities are studying the data that Arthur Starnes collected in his record-breaking exploit today.

And now something about our record-breaking Blue Sunoco Oil, High.