

L.T. SUNOCO FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1941

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Battle of Greece raged all day long -- with a tremendous fury of fighting. Central Greece, a theatre of devastation. Air bombing and land-fighting.

The British and Greek emphasize the huge forces the Nazi mechanized army is hurling against the Allied Line. Also -- the staggering losses the Germans are incurring. Driving with masses of men and machines -- reckless disregard of the cost, tens of thousands of casualties -- whole divisions knocked out. An unrelenting effort to break through. It would seem as if they did break through - but not permanently.

The battle communiques are heavily censored and rather cryptic. One line from Athens reads in these words: "A solid Greco-British defense line now exists." That might seem to mean that the solid defense line had been

reestablished, after having been fractured.

This morning Athens reported that British and Greek troops were, as the bulletin said, "gradually withdrawing."

The purpose, ~~was~~ to shorten the line of defense. Later, that was

made clearer by the statement that Greek troops had ~~withdrawn~~ ^{retired} from

the greater part of Albania, which they had previously held -

thereby shortening the line. That improved the situation, said

Athens, and reported that the new ^{front} ~~line~~ was holding. Especially

in the Kalabaka section; ~~that's in~~ the middle of the fighting

~~fronts~~, where the Germans had driven a wedge. There they've been

widening out their salient toward the important city of Larissa,

~~and~~ ^{and} ~~thereby~~ threatening to flank the British force defending Mt. Olympus.

At last reports, the British at Mt. Olympus were holding firmly.

That area is now like a pocket, with the southern end open -

the Nazis trying to close it. ~~There~~ From the southern end of the

salient of Olympus, the line extends roughly westward - across

Greece.

The reports from Berlin are brief and fragmentary, but

stress the powerful resistance of the British and Greeks in a

country of difficult and rugged mountains. ~~Athenes declares that~~

Athens declares that the situation, though better, is still

serious. *Here's a bulletin. The Premier of Greece, Alex. Korissis, died suddenly this afternoon - successor to Metaxas who also died recently.*

The fate of Jugoslavia was formally confirmed by London

today. This follows Berlin announcements that the armies of the

Balkan Kingdom have surrendered - a complete capitulation,

an end of Jugoslav resistance. ~~This~~ Twelve days after the

Nazi blow was launched. *!* Now London makes a technical admission

~~of this~~ - in the form of a ruling by the Board of Economic

Warfare. Henceforth Jugoslavia will be regarded as enemy-occupied

territory and will be subject to the British blockade.

Not much news from North Africa. The state of affairs is about the same. Constant fighting at the tip of the spearhead driven into Egypt, ~~keeping the Germans and Italians in check.~~

Tobruk ~~is~~ still holding out, under siege, isolated - but resisting stubbornly.

Cairo reports that the Nazi-Fascist forces are - *Having* exhausted. ~~They~~ spent their strength in that terrifically swift advance of hundreds of miles. Cairo says they show no signs of trying to push deeper into Egypt.

BOMBING

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Last night at this time we were in doubt as to ~~whether~~ whether Berlin was being bombed. All day Londoners had been demanding vengeance for the savage air raid that blasted the British capital on Wednesday. People chalking the demand on walls and sidewalks - "Bomb Berlin!" So, had the R.A.F. answered the call promptly? Was Berlin being bombed in reprisal?

Today we learn - yes, a most emphatic affirmative. At this hour last night, and for hours thereafter, the Royal Air Force was over Hitler's capital in what London tells us was the heaviest air raid that Berlin ^{has} sustained. ~~In the war.~~ The British air fleet blasted the city with the largest load of bombs it ^{has} dropped ~~on it~~ thus far. The heart of Berlin was hit. The Prussian state library ^{was} damaged again. The British bulletin uses these words: - "checkerboarded with fires." The city was so spotted with outbreaks of ~~flame~~ flame that they were like red squares ^{on a} ~~of~~ black checkerboard. ^{of}

Yes, that would seem to be reprisal in a big way. But was it? The British Government officially says - No. A statement issued from Number Ten Downing Street, headquarters

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of Prime Minister Winston Churchill, reads as follows:- "It is a mistake to describe the bombing of Berlin last night by the Royal Air Force as a reprisal for the raid on London the night before. It was not a reprisal," the statement continues, "but was part of the regular policy of bombing objectives." In other words, a routine military operation hitting at military targets.

That's the official attitude, but I wonder whether the people of London will take last night's bombing of Berlin in such entirely correct fashion. Maybe they'll feel some gratification of the desire for vengeance. Maybe they can't help thinking that it was something of an answer to yesterday's demand - "Bomb Berlin."

And
They're likely to get the more satisfaction out of it because of the news released today - ~~the~~ St. Paul's Cathedral ~~was~~ hit again in the air raid of Wednesday night. A Nazi bomb smashed ~~near~~

the inner portico of Sir Christopher Wren's architectural masterpiece which is called the ^{Parish} ~~Paris~~ Church of the British Empire.

The crypt of the Cathedral was strewn with wreckage and nearly

every pane of glass was shattered. *I've just learned that the church attended by so many Americans was wiped out - The city temple - where so many Americans have occupied the pulpit.*
The London government today spoke about the

possibility of bombing Rome + and that ^{is} strictly a matter of reprisals. The Fascist government declared Rome an open city, to spare it from air raids. In the Greek War, it was likewise agreed that Athens should not be a target for bombing.

Even in the bitter violence of the ultra-modern clash of arms, the desire was manifest to spare the great classic monuments of Rome and Athens. ^R But now there's a report that the Nazi air fleet may attack Athens - also Cairo. That Egyptian metropolis is considered an open city - and it's likewise a great religious center, of Islam. If the Nazis should hit at Athens or Cairo, the British will retaliate on Rome. This was stated in a formal declaration from Number Ten Downing Street. "In view of German threats to bomb Cairo and Athens," says the declaration, "His Majesty's Government wishes it understood that if either of these cities is molested they will commence a systematic bombing of Rome." The British announcement makes one qualification. It says:- "The greatest care will be taken not to bomb Vatican City and the ~~strictest~~ strictest orders to that effect have been issued."

Vatican City, in Rome, has the legal status of an

independent state - neutral. And the Vatican and St. Peters are the world's center of the Roman Catholic Church. The London statement

Here's a startling angle: -
does they
intimates that, if the R.A.F. bombs Rome, the Fascists themselves will ~~bomb~~ *blast* Vatican City, ~~and~~ *— just to* try to blame it on the British, *and by* using British bombs. The London accusation is as follows:

"It has come to the knowledge of His Majesty's Government that an Italian squadron is being held ready in Rome to drop captured British bombs upon Vatican City should a British raid take place."

CONVOY

Senator Tobey of New Hampshire stated today that American warships have been actually convoying vessels with war supplies for Britain, and that the President had authorized this about a month ago.

Senator Tobey stated that he had this information from what he described as --"a navy man," who wrote him a letter about it. The Senator said he had received another letter - from a Philadelphia business man. This one told of a young woman called to New York to see her fiance, an ensign in the Navy. He informed her that his ship had been ordered out on convoy duty.

Denial was made by administration leader Senator Alben Barkley of Kentucky. He said he was speaking for Secretary of the Navy Knox and Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Stark.

"They unequivocally and emphatically authorize me to say," declaimed Senator Barkley, "that not a single ship, American or foreign., carrying munitions, has been convoyed from one place to another -- and that no authority had been given for such convoys." And he added that in his many conferences with the President, the question of convoying had never been under discussion.

PRICES

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The federal decree fixing the price of steel was ^{de}~~a~~nnounced in the Senate today. "Absolutely illegal" cried Senator Taft of Ohio. He pointed out that Congress has given the president power to fix prices on things which the government buys. But this, he said, ^{does}~~did~~ not apply to merchandise sold at large. Leon Henderson, head of the Board regulating ^{the costs}~~costs~~ of things, has fixed the price of steel in general -- steel sold to anybody. Said Senator Taft: "If Mr. Henderson can fix the price for steel and iron, then he can fix prices for watches as well." ^{The Senator}~~He~~ said he does not oppose the principal price regulation, but he thinks that Congress should have something to say about it.

GREENBERG

It has finally been decided about Hank Greenberg. The star
hitter of the Detroit Tigers is going to take a cut in pay - a big
cut. From fifty thousand dollars a year Hank's wages are going to
drop to twenty-one dollars a month. Meaning ^{-- Hank is in} ~~he has got to go to~~
the Army ^{now - or will be soon.}

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Greenberg, the mighty slugger, was called in the draft,
and tried to get his term of military service deferred so that he
could report for ^{army} duty after the present baseball season is over.
He'd like to have his year of training arranged so that it will
include one baseball season, without interfering with ~~the~~ two.
Moreover, Hank has some small physical disability, a slight case
of flat feet. That might impede his ^{base} ~~pace~~ running; ~~a beat~~ but it's
not enough to affect his marching. So decreed the draft board
physicians, and today Hank was placed in Class One-A. He will
probably be called for service in May, and can go on playing ball
until then.

WINDSORS

The social debut of the ^{Duke}~~Earl~~ and Duchess of Windsor at Palm Beach seems to have struck a snag. Upon arriving today, the former Edward the Eighth started cancelling social engagements. ~~that had been made for him and the former Wallis Warfield of Baltimore.~~ He did a lot of cancelling - the social engagements were so numerous.

There seems to have been some misapprehension. His Royal Highness stated today that the simple and only purpose of his visit to Palm Beach was to confer with his financial advisor, Sir Edward Peacock. Sir Edward is a member of the British Purchasing Commission at Washington, and couldn't find time to go to Nassau - where the Duke presides as Governor. So they compromised, and decided to have their conference in Florida - Palm Beach. ~~So~~ The purpose of the royal visit to the haven of high society was strictly business. However, as the Duke of Windsor confessed today, he and the Duchess did accept several invitations to luncheon and dinner, small quiet affairs. ^W Maybe that provided the opening - but at any rate, the blueblood elite at Palm Beach proceeded to go to town. They drew up a schedule of social functions for the

Windsors to attend, and transformed the business trip into something far more splendorous and stately - the social debut of the Duke and Duchess in the United States! That's ^{what it} ~~was it~~ was to be - and Palm Beach got set for the biggest and swankiest event in Palm Beach history. With all the luncheons, golf games, cocktail parties and formal dinners on the list - the Social Register would have a magnificent fling at entertaining royalty.

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TP The preparation and publicity were so elaborate, the word got around - that the conference of the Duke and his financial advisor was only the ostensible reason for the trip to Palm Beach. The real reason was ^{-- the} ~~-~~ social debut, the formal introduction into exclusive American circles of the world's most famous couple, the one-time monarch of the British Empire and the woman for the love of whom he gave up the world's most glorious throne.

Apparently, the Duke and Duchess themselves were not apprised of this. And when they arrived at Palm Beach today they were confronted with the schedule of social functions. Here's an example. For today they were to have luncheon at one of the most exclusive of Palm Beach estate, ^S then a golf game with an

exclusive throng in attendance. The Duke to play around the links - not with any mere professionals like Gene Sarazen or Walter Hagen - but with golfers out of the Social Register. Then

From the links to a cocktail party, at an aristocratic home.

Followed by

~~Then~~ a formal dinner with a bit of dancing. Tomorrow the same

thing, maybe a little more crowded. Then on Sunday - the climax,

the social functioning at its busiest. On Monday - back to the

Bahamas. ^{The news} ~~This~~ flash from Palm Beach shows that in those three

days the Windsors were scheduled for about a dozen social events,

One ^{to be a mere} ~~was marked down as~~ cocktail party, with three thousand

guests. ~~invited. It didn't say how many ~~the~~ shakers they'd use.~~

So that ^{was} the prospect which confronted the Duke

of Windsor today, as he arrived to go into a series of business conferences with his financial advisor. You know that even a

royal Duke can sometimes think of finances, and may need a couple

of days to straighten things out. The United Press dispatch

relates that the Duke appeared dismayed. He simply gaped at the

magnitude of the program for the society debut of himself and the

Duchess - a debut he hadn't even dreamed of. Here's what he said

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and you can imagine the plaintive voice:- "It doesn't seem that we can fill all of these engagements that have been made for us."

And the next thing the Duchess was informing reporters as follows:-

"I heard His Royal Highness on the telephone cancelling most of the social engagements shortly after we arrived." The latest is that

the Duke thinks he may be able to get in one brief game of golf

before he leaves, but he isn't sure about that.

Then he's hurrying back to Nassau. Gangway for the Duke. And now gangway for Hugh.

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