

PLANE

D. I. - Luroco. Friday, June 10, 1938.

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Near Delavan, Illinois, there was a thunderstorm today, with lowering black clouds, drenching rain, and blinding ~~sixteen~~ streaks of lightning. In that murderous weather a great airplane was seen. It appeared in the storm flying underneath the low hanging clouds of black. It was so near the ground that farmers could see the passengers. They were in uniform, a big army bomber.

The eyewitness stories tell of a sudden flash in the sky, followed by a violent crash. This would seem to indicate that the plane exploded in the air, or maybe was struck by lightning. The bomber crashed to the earth in flames, ^{ing the} killed eight army men aboard. Sky tragedy in a thunderstorm.

Cohan

June 10, 1938

the idea out in Dayton, Ohio. Every time I played there I visited the Old Soldier's Home, and listened to the Civil War veterans tell how they fought for the flag. They always referred to it, in an intimate, friendly, affectionate way -- as "the grand old rag". So I used the phrase in my song as an expression of the highest patriotism -- the patriotism of the men who had fought and died for the flag.

L.T.: Yes, I see -- but there were some folks who didn't understand it that way, didn't understand the feeling of the veterans when they talked of their "grand old rag?"

G.M.C.: That's just it. There was a storm of protest. I simply had used an expression that belonged strictly to the veterans, their own personal expression of patriotism -- not understood elsewhere. So I had to change the phrase. That meant breaking up the plates for printing the song. New plates, new printing, with flag instead of rag.

L.T. So it's a grand old flag, and there's no one better fitted to say this than George M. Cohan on Flag Day.

G.M.C. And I'll also say this to everybody -- fly the flag tomorrow. Let's all support Colonel Moss of the United States Flag Association in advocating the observance of Flag Day. That's what I want to say to all of you. And you know - "I'd Rather Be Right --- - - - -"

L.T.: You are right, George, and I'll bet you've added to the number of flags that will be flown tomorrow. But meanwhile today -- let's see what else we have in the news.

Nazi-Chicago.
~~SECRET~~

There's ~~going~~ to be an inquiry in Chicago involving the Nazi penetration of the United States. Last February a dentist from Germany, who had come to America as a refugee from Nazi persecution, was murdered in Chicago. Several people were suspected by the police, taken into custody and questioned. Among them was an ex-convict named Eugene d'Allessandro. On Saturday night this same d'Allessandro was standing on ~~the street~~ a street corner of Chicago's west side. Four revolver shots were fired and d'Allessandro dropped on the sidewalk dead. So now the Chicago authorities are going to hold an inquest of an exceedingly comprehensive kind.

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OPIUM

Some months ago, I received some astonishing reports that Japan was almost openly violating an international agreement about the sale of opium. (The information that was given to me was that the Mikado's officers were encouraging and spreading the sale of narcotics throughout Manchuria and in all parts of China under Japanese control.) In fact, the word was, Nippon was helping finance her war in China by spreading the use of opium derivatives.

The information was so sensational that I wrote a piece about it for the COMMENTATOR MAGAZINE, but I wrote it with considerable reservation. However, today that information was officially confirmed by a report made public at Geneva. In fact, a representative of Uncle Sam made an open accusation against Japan. This is the charge, I quote: "The illicit traffic is flourishing like a Green Bay tree in all regions of China under control of the Japanese." This statement was made by Stuart J. Fuller, who holds the post of Assistant Chief of the Far Eastern Division of our State Department. (Mr. Fuller continued: "In a period of some fifteen months, six hundred and fifty kilograms of heroin were exported to the United States from the Japanese concession at

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out

CHINA

When Napoleon Bonaparte was preparing his historic invasion of Russia, there was one Russian completely unalarmed. That was the Czar, Alexander the First. For, said he: "Russia has two invincible generals, General 'January' and General 'February.'"

This week a new field marshal appears on the side of the Chinese in their extraordinary resistance to the Japanese invader. The new Chinese ally is General "Floods." The Yellow River is fighting with terrific and uncontrollable force on the side of the people through whose country it runs. The Nipponese armies had ~~almost~~ ^{nearly} completed a crucial victory, ~~at the end of a campaign fought~~ ~~desperately and at almost prohibitive cost.~~ They had battled their way to the point where the strategic city of Hankow, seat of the provisional government, was ~~almost~~ ^{nearly} within their grasp.

^{But at} ~~the~~ ^{of china.} the eleventh hour, the Yellow River came to their rescue. ^{Swollen waters.} ~~Torrential rains had swollen its waters to flood levels.~~

Then the dykes gave way. Ironically enough, it is believed that some of the gaps in the levees were caused by Japanese bombs.

At other places, the Chinese undoubtedly took a leaf out of the history book of the Hollanders ~~centuries ago,~~ when they were

fighting for their liberty against the Spaniards.

If all accounts from the flood area are true, the great river has inflicted upon the Mikado's invaders a blow more

terrific than any from the armies of the defenders. (In fact,

it is not improbable today that the entire Japanese military

machine is mired down and helpless, in seas of mud brought down

from the hinterland by the swollen river.)

SPAIN

From the Spanish theatre of war, we have today a story that recalls some of the spectacular glamour of the World War. It's the news of the last stand of that famous lost division ^{in the Pyrenees.} We've been hearing quite a bit about it ^{recently,} ~~in the last few days.~~ And now it seems that Colonel Beltran and his nine thousand ragged soldiers, have their backs to the wall.

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All this is nothing new to the commanding officer of that lost division. He fought in the World War, fought with Uncle Sam's army. As a matter of fact, he was a second lieutenant in the attack on San Mihiel. At this moment he's fighting the battle of his life. For weeks the lost division has been standing off the attacks of ~~General~~ Franco's ~~larger~~ forces. (In the mountain passes of the Pyrenees he has defied all efforts to dislodge him and drive him over the border into France.) For the last twenty-four hours, a blinding fall of snow and sleet has complicated the fighting.. But the lost division turned the snowstorm and and their knowledge of the Pyrenees to good account. (Slipping around the peaks, ^{on the ice,} they worked their way ~~into~~ to the rear of the Rebel troops and machine-gunned them from behind.)

A member of the Barcelona government has just returned from a visit to the lost division. He reported that some of the government advance posts are only six hundred and fifty feet from the Rebel lines. Men on both sides frequently hold conversations. But the conversations usually end up with accusations.

The latest from Spain is that the Franco forces ~~have~~ captured the port of Castelon. This doesn't mean the city precisely, ~~ex~~ just the harbor section. The town itself is now surrounded, that strategic place for which the Spanish Rebels have been battling for desperate weeks -- ~~it~~ a key to the defense of Valencia.

MATHIS

7
Somewhere at sea in a small boat between the Atlantic Coast and the Pacific Coast, is a party of four adventurous people.

That sounds vague enough, ~~in all conscience.~~

On the nineteenth of March, Lieutenant Commander Stanley Mathis, Retired, set sail from Newbern, North Carolina, bound for the Pacific coast, ^{with} ~~He had~~ a crew of two sailors and one passenger, his nineteen year old daughter. Their craft, ~~was~~ an eighty foot schooner with an auxiliary engine. Since that time nothing has been heard from them.

An alarming fact is that Lieutenant Commander Mathis wrote a letter to his wife before he sailed, in which he said: "If you don't hear from us in a month, you'll never hear from us." A somewhat baffling message.

Now that almost three months have elapsed, Mrs. Mathis has appealed to the Navy to look for her husband and daughter. So a request was sent by radio to all naval stations on the Gulf of Mexico and to all ships afloat in the Caribbean, saying: "Please report news of contact, if any, with eighty foot auxiliary schooner SMITH K. MARTIN."

ROSE

8

A curious historical ceremony was solemnly carried out today near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The history of this affair dates back to Seventeen Seventy-Two, and to the story of a celebrated figure in Revolutionary time. I mean, William Henry Stiegel, the famous manufacturer of iron and glass. As any collector can tell you, a specimen of Stiegel glass, an old bottle or drinking vessel, of his make, is a thing that antiquaries will travel miles to find and pay fantastic sums of money to own.

8 1/2

Stiegel
He came to Philadelphia from Germany in Seventeen Fifty, and bought a lot of ground near Lancaster and on it founded the town of Mannheim. One piece of land he deeded to the congregation of the Zion Evangelical Church. He didn't deed it outright but stipulated that rent should be paid. The rent was to consist of One Red Rose, to be given every year in June. ~~That yearly payment~~

When the Revolution broke, the Stiegel Glass and Iron Works fell upon hard times. Things broke disastrously for the man whose glassware is today precious all over America, so badly that he was imprisoned for debt. For more than a century that simple, touching, picturesque ceremony was forgotten.

a Mrs. Van Tassel,

Today, however, [^]a direct lineal descendant of William Henry

Stiegel's appeared at the Zion Church in Mannheim, Pennsylvania.

There she was solemnly presented with a red rose. ~~She is Mrs.~~

~~VanTassel, who came all the way from Newton, Massachusetts, to do it.~~

9 1/4 And now Hugh, I present
you with ~~the~~ ^a Mike. ~~and s-l-u-t-t.~~