

P.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The latest off the wire tells of the sinking of a steamship - BOLD VENTURE. It was the second American-owned vessel ~~steamship to be~~ announced today as lost - torpedoed. The sinking of two American-owned merchant vessels flashing in one day of news; - that's a vivid token of the growing tension in the war at sea.

The BOLD VENTURE was of Panamanian registry, flying the Panamanian flag - as in the case of several other ships sunk during previous weeks. The two torpedoings reported today bring the number of sinkings of American-owned vessels up to ten. The BOLD VENTURE is said to have been in convoy, when torpedoed in the North Atlantic. No loss of life, apparently.

Only an hour or two before the BOLD VENTURE announcement was issued, there was previous word of the other sinking - and that announcement came in dramatic fashion.

SHIPS

Three minutes before he began his press conference today, President Roosevelt received a message. He read this communication to the newspapermen, when they gathered before his desk, ~~and it constitutes the news headline of the day.~~ The President announced the torpedoing and sinking of ^{the Lehigh,} an American merchant vessel - flying the American flag. ~~A submarine, undoubtedly German, has destroyed another United States merchant craft on the high seas - for another international incident of Number One importance.~~

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The freighter LEHIGH sailed from New York on September Thirteenth, bound with a cargo for Spain. The LEHIGH was owned by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation and its home port was Wilmington, Delaware. The President states that the ship discharged its cargo at the Spanish port of Bilbao, and then steamed south, steering for the gold coast, of West Africa. The LEHIGH was running empty, intending to take a cargo aboard on the gold coast - for a trading voyage. At nine P.M., Sunday night, the ship was in the Atlantic between South America and Africa - rather nearer to the bulge of the African coast, not far from the Equator.

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There, ~~it~~[^] was intercepted by a submarine, ~~was~~ torpedoed and sunk. President Roosevelt states that it is believed ~~that~~ no lives were lost, although several persons might have been injured. One boatload of survivors has been picked up he said, and two other boatloads are being sought.

This is the third merchant vessel under the American flag to ~~have~~^{of} been sunk. The two others, was the one air bombed in the Red Sea and the ROBIN MOOR, torpedoed in the South Atlantic. And in addition there have been those several ships, American owned, but flying the flag of Panama. To these add attacks on the United States destroyers - torpedoes missing the GREET and striking and damaging the KEARNY. It all adds up to an increasing war crisis, in which the prime factors are - the President's order to shoot first, coupled with assaults on American vessels.

The President ~~Roosevelt~~ was asked today whether our Government would protest to Nazi Germany for the sinking of the freighter LEHIGH. He replied that he agreed with the declaration made by Secretary of State Cordell Hull - that the United States Government does not often send notes to international highwaymen. And

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he also echoed the Cordell Hull opinion that the ~~torpedoing~~

torpedoing of a merchant vessel, as in this newest case of the

LEHIGH, constituted piracy. ^{And to this is now} added the report of the ^{incidents are} sinking of The Bald Venture. These ^{This latest sinking is} bound to have instant

repercussions in Congress, where the change in the Neutrality Law

is being considered. Secretary of State Hull today testified at

the Senate Committee hearing, and urgently asked that the

Neutrality Law be altered to permit the arming of American

commercial craft. ~~He said this should be done before it is~~

~~"too late."~~ And he denounced the Nazi attacks in these words,

"a policy of intimidation and frightfulness."

Secretary Hull is quoted as giving the opinion that the arming of merchant ships would not amount to an act of war.

Isolationist Senator Johnson of California has the following to

say about the testimony given by ^{See} ~~Cordell~~ Hull: "He said he would

be no more in favor of going to war than I," declared Hiram

Johnson.

And the Secretary of State also recommended that the

Neutrality Law be further amended to permit American ^{cargo} ~~cardinal~~ ships to go into the combat zones. ~~as he has done before.~~ This, however, he did not press for immediate action. ^{TP} Yet, the proposal to remove the combat zone limitations will come before Congress, apparently. Three Republican Senate leaders from New England have sponsored it, not counting administration Democrats. And Senator Bridges of New Hampshire stated today that he will try to bring this further change in the Neutrality Law to a vote. ^{TP} On the other hand, administration leader Senator Connally today declared:

"We haven't got to that point yet." He said the President is not definitely backing immediate action to open ^{up} ~~on~~ the combat zones.

The opinion in Washington was expressed that it will be a close thing - getting the proposal through the Senate. There was talk about a possible majority of one. But now we have the sinking of the freighter DEHIGH - following upon the torpedoing and damaging of the destroyer KEARNY - and that may change attitudes in Congress.

~~Senator Clark of Missouri stated today that he would~~

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Here's the latest - about the KEARNY. It's a statement made by Admiral Stark, Chief of Naval Operations. He is reported to have told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the destroyer was on convoy duty when torpedoed. The Admiral today testified secretly before the committee considering the Neutrality Bill. Statements made afterwards by members of the Committee were not clear about the nationality of the convoy the KEARNY was escorting - was it American or was it British? One Committeeman said the destroyer was guarding American mail bound for Iceland. Another said * that Admiral Stark had declined to reveal the identity of the vessels under convoy - American or British. Still others stated the Admiral said he didn't know the identity of the ship^s - that the Navy has not yet received a full report.

Officials of the Navy today denied stories that the KEARNY had serious mechanical trouble during its test runs last year. This report emanates from relatives of one of the sailors missing from the destroyer. This sailor is quoted as having told of trouble during the test run. Today a cousin of his stated:
"He said they came back to Boston harbor with the sides stove in."

WAR

The German drive against Moscow has slow^{ed} down almost to the tempo of seige operations. From the war bulletins today it's apparent that the blitz has crashed forward in a couple of critical areas but not for ~~long~~ far-reaching gains. The beseigers are before Moscow in a semi-circle that threatens to close around the city, but no rapid progress of the glosing movement is reported. The Red Army is resisting stubbornly, and London tells us that Stalin personally is directing the defense. He is said to be in an armored train, going from one part of the front to another. It is recalled that in the Russian Civil War that established Bolshevism, Trotsky used to do much the same thing -- he was then the Red War Lord, ^{who} ~~and he~~ travelled in an armored train from one battle area to another, commanding the fight. Now it's Stalin in an armored train -- though he would hardly like the Trotsky anology.

Berlin today has little to say about the Moscow battleline and finds its victories in other theaters of war -- particularly in the South. Berlin announces the capture of Stalino, the vast industrial area named after Stalin. This is in the heart of the

great Donets coal areas -- so important to Red Army war industry.

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And the Nazis are reported to be closing in on Rostov that key harbor at the mouth of the River Don. Rostov -- which is the gateway to the Caucasus and the Great Baku oil fields.

In Britain there's a new flare of a controversy about aiding the Soviets with an invasion. Today ^{a deputation} ~~the deputation~~ representing the workers in nine great factory areas left a resolution at Number Ten, Downing Street -- Prime Minister Churchill's official residence. The resolution demanded an invasion of the Nazi controlled continent to help the Red Army, and expressed the belief that Great Britain is not taking full advantage of the Soviet fight. Moreover there was denunciation of such important persons as British War Secretary Margesson and Viscount Halifax, Ambassador to the United States. They're accused of being lukewarm in support of ~~the~~ Soviet Russia. ^{TV} Shortly afterward a British government spokesman made a statement obviously an answer to the demands for an invasion. He declared that the British could not attempt any land offensive against Germany until the British-American output of armament had risen to three or four times that

of Germany.

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Along with the cry for invasion the Churchill government is faced with a very different sort of demand. A late story from London declares that there's likely to be a parliamentary debate on the subject of a pamphlet issued by the Duke of Bedford. He's one of the most exalted peers of the realm and his pamphlet calls for -- peace. The Duke of Bedford argues that a settlement of the war can and should be reached. He rather scoffs the notion that Hitler is determined on world domination. The Duke of Bedford describes that motion in these words: "a somewhat questionable assumption much in favor of those who are anxious to continue the war at all costs."

This peace demand emanating from the higher ranks of the British Peerage recalls a familiar thing in the previous war -- the famous Lord ~~mf~~ Lansdowne letter. That was a headline in those other war days, when the eminent Lord Lansdowne issued a plea that that other war be compromised.

There's grim and savage news from occupied France --
announcement of ruthless retaliation for the assassination of the

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Nazi commander at Nantes in Brittany. The German military authorities have ordered the shooting of fifty hostages -- reprisal for the killing of Lieutenant Colonel Holtz. Moreover fifty more hostages will be shot if the two assassins are not captured. The Nazis have offered a reward of fifteen million francs, three hundred thousand dollars for information that will lead to the arrest of the assassins.

LA GUARDIA

New York City politics are in the news tonight, with a statement by Governor Lehman -- who comes out in favor of O'Dwyer. The big town is having a mayoralty campaign, which has certain national angles - if not international. Mayor LaGuardia, the Fusion candidate, is a fervent supporter of President Roosevelt and the New Deal. On the other hand, Candidate O'Dwyer is the regular Democratic nominee -- and the President is a Democrat. All of which produces a certain amount of paradox -- including a good deal of New Deal support for LaGuardia.

And this makes the position of Governor Lehman rather interesting -- he being at the same time a Democratic governor and a New Deal stalwart.

Today Governor Lehman issued a statement as follows: "As a resident of New York City I will support and vote for William O'Dwyer for Mayor."

WINDSOR - LAGUARDIA

That's the news headline in New York City politics today, and we find a reflection of the coming election even in the New York visit now being made by the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. They called on the Mayor today, and had a long talk with him. They've known each other in times gone by, and met in Italy at the time when that kingdom was an ally of Great Britain during the World War. LaGuardia as a prominent American of ~~Am~~ Italian extraction, was doing propaganda work in Italy -- to encourage the Italians. He gave a pep talk at the City of Milan, and there he met the Duke of Windsor -- who was then Prince of Wales. Today the Duke remembered this, and he said -- speaking of the Italians: "Their morale was a little sunk at the time."

To which the Mayor responded, "not so low as it is now."

His Honor the Mayor spoke of the Duke in high praise,

referring to him as "His H₁ghness" - though some may think H₁s Honor should have said, "H₁s Royal Highness." While they were being photographed together, LaGuardia said to the photographers, "I believe it is safe to say that he would make a very excellent mayor."


To which the former K₁ng Emperor of the British Empire replied, "Y₀u flatter me."

The reporters questioned H₁s Honor about the chat he had with H₁s H₁ghness, and that's where the mention of New Y₀rk City politics was intruded. Had they talked about LaGuardia's opponent,

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G'Dwyer? ^{R.} H₁s H₀nor smiled and said, "I don't think H₁s H₁ghness would know him." Something like the old B₀stonian bit about the

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Cabots and the Lodges - H₁s H₁ghness speaks only to H₁s H₀nor.

And you can fillout the rest to suit yourself.



Like the Mayor, I too spent a moment or two with the Duke this afternoon, reminiscing about experiences in Italy during the World War. The Austrians and Germans were rearing Venice. The population of the city had fled. The Duke - then Prince of Wales - and I, and a few companions, were the only occupants of one of the big hotels of Venice. We talked about that. Also of some other exciting days when we were both in India, at the height of Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation campaign. The Duke reminded me of how Gandhi would call upon the people not to take part in the welcome, urge them even to stay off the streets in such cities ^{as} ~~of~~ Lahore, Delhi, Rawal Pindi, and Peshawar, where I was with the Prince of Wales' party.

My wife and other ladies, after meeting the Duchess, pronounced her a charming and gracious woman - even better looking than most of her pictures. And I can vouch that she is a diplomat. She said that down in Nassau they depended on this particular broadcast for much of their news. Whether that's true or not it's pleasant to hear.

There is no doubt but what she has made a well-nigh

perfect impression on this her first visit home after having married the man who once was the head of the greatest empire in all history.

GENERAL

In the South Carolina army maneuvers, the sergeant captured the general - and nearly fainted. However, he's a hero. At the first army maneuvers today, Sergeant Carl Zingg of East Orange, New Jersey, was hailed for his exploit," and the one that led the cheers was General Milton Reckord, commanding officer of the Twenty-Ninth Division.

Sergeant Zingg belongs to the Hundred and Second Cavalry and yesterday he was in command of a party of twenty men attached to the red forces in the sham battle. He and his men were maneuvering in scout cars, and ^{Zingg} ~~the~~ sergeant displayed plenty of zip ^{if not} ~~zip~~ ^{zing}. He led his motorized group right through the blue army ranks and far to the rear. There ^{Zingg went zipping zinging,} ~~he went singing,~~ operating against the blue communications. ^{TP} They took up a strategic position in ambush near a ^{road} ~~red~~ junction. There they waited until a squadron of jeep cars came along. And - zingg! They opened a terrific fire of machine guns. The umpires on the spot ruled that the squadron of jeep cars had been captured. So Sergeant Zingg and his men seized the prisoners. ~~Then it sure was - zingg!~~ To the sergeant's

amazement, one of his captives turned out to be a general -
General Reckord of the red forces. Two other captives were high
officers. Having snagged all that gold braid, the top kick had
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that shakey feeling in the boots. However, war is war. The
sergeant took his prisoners in the scout cars, and they dashed off.
The blues were after them, but Sergeant Zingg managed to evade
them, cut back through the enemy battlefront, and reached the red
army. There he delivered his prisoners, General and all.

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Today General Reckord, his face not a bit red, spoke
as follows concerning Sergeant Zingg: "I consider him a splendid
soldier," declared the General. "He conducted his detachment in
a perfect manner and, if I'm to be captured in the future I hope
it will be by the same outfit."

To which the Sergeant responds, saying about the General:

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"He's one swell apple." said Zingg. And
~~what~~ how about some Zingg
from Jon Hugh?