

L.J. - Sunco. Tuesday, Jan. 30, 1940.

Today the British Army published its first casualty list of the present war. ~~The~~ ^{First} Casualty list, - how ominous that sounds, with its reminiscences of the ¹World War! Then the casualty lists were the starkest of tragedy, with the names of hosts of men who had died in battle, thousands and ¹tens of thousands. Half the homes in Britain were in mourning, the tenements of the London Cockney, the manorial country houses of peers of the realm. So let's see what today's first British casualty list of the ^{present} war reveals.

In ^{the} five months of the conflict with Germany, the death list, killed-in-action on the Western Front, numbers - fourteen. thirteen private soldiers and one officer. The unit that lost the heaviest was the Leistershire regiment, which is in the fighting line on the Western Front. That regiment lost three men killed.

Most of the losses in Britain's ^{army} first casualty list are attributed to illness and traffic accidents - seven hundred and fifty-seven. And there were more fatalities because of ^{road} accidents ^{than} ~~and~~ because of illness.

47
All of this applies to the British Army. The Navy of course has sustained heavy ^{losses} losses, mostly in the sinking of ships by mine or torpedo.

NORTH SEA

The Germans made some more air raids along the British East coast today -- ~~planes~~ attacking merchant shipping. Berlin claims ~~that~~ seven vessels ~~were~~ sunk.

They made a similar claim about their sky attacks of yesterday,

denied by
~~which claim~~ London ~~has denied~~. It's all a part of the.

~~Nazi sniping from the sky and the under-sea~~ -- Sniping

~~intended~~ to hamper the sea communications of Great Britain.

HITLER

The speech that Hitler made today was involved at first in some interesting doubt. Nobody knew where the Nazi Fuehrer would make his address -- ^{at} what place in Berlin. That was kept a secret, which reminded observers that the last time Hitler made his speech he was nearly ~~be~~ blown up. That was the far-famed affair in Munich, where the beer cellar shrine of the Nazis had a tremendous bomb explosion just after Der Fuehrer had finished talking. Today the Nazis may have had that in mind -- and refrained from ~~public~~ publicizing the place where Hitler would appear. Maybe they thought that might be giving a tip to some other bombers. *He made it in the Sports Palace. Celebrating the 7th anniversary of his taking power.* Hitler didn't say anything astonishing. He

~~denounced Great Britain, when he shouted that the British are determined to destroy Germany -- the usual Nazi interpretation of the war. The only point at all unusual was that the~~

~~FUEHRER~~ Fuehrer included France in his blast. ~~Here (Hitherto,~~

~~the Nazi tactic has been to go easy on Paris -- according to~~

~~the Hitler contention that Britain has dragged France into~~

~~the war.~~) It has been a Nazi pretense that they ~~are~~ *Germans are* not fighting

France. But, today, Hitler yelled a threat at the French,
in these words:- "They too will have war".

REFUGEES

Today in the old city of Santa Domingo now called

Soodad

Ciudad Trujillo, a ceremony was enacted -- a ceremony bearing

upon a pitiful problem now so much ~~xxxxxxxx~~ obscured by the

thunder of war, the problem of the refugees from Nazi Germany.

Today General Trujillo, the strong man of the Dominican

Republic presided at the signing of a contract to settle

five hundred refugees families on farm lands of the great

West Indian Island. They are to be given twentyfour hundred

acres of land, and are guaranteed against discrimination,

and persecution. These five hundred families are just a

beginning. The plan is to settle one hundred thousand

refugees in Santa Domingo.

FINLAND

49

Finland has its war-time censorship, as well as Soviet Russia - ^{though} ~~but~~ the Finns let out a lot more news. The side winning the victories usually does. Today the censor in Helsinki released a story of a bombing raid made by the Finnish air force against objectives in Soviet territory. Just what did they bomb? The censor limits the information to this - "a certain harbor."

That's not very illuminating, but unofficial advices from Finland declare ~~xxxx~~ "a certain harbor" to have been the great Soviet naval base of Kronstadt - famous ^{from} ~~in~~ the days of Peter the Great as the island stronghold guarding the harbor of what used to be St. Petersburg and now is Leningrad. ^{ff} We are told that Finnish air squadrons blasted the Kronstadt docks, navy yards, and airdromes - also warships. The report adds the detail that the bombing was done by Italian-made war planes, sky equipment sent by Mussolini to help the Finns. And it states further that Italian pilots serving with the Finns took part in the air raid on Kronstadt. ~~In fact, hints are given that there have been several attacks in the past few days on the Soviet base which the Finnish censor hides with the words - "a certain harbor."~~

Helsinki today gives an official account of the victims of Soviet air raids to date - those air raids which so largely have bombed ^{Finnish} cities and civilians. Two months ago today, the Red army invasion began, and in that period of eight weeks Soviet planes have killed three hundred and thirty-seven men, women and children. (The wounded from sky attack number nine hundred and twelve. Helsinki reckons that in air raids on civilian centers, the Red flying forces have dropped twenty-nine hundred bombs.)

On the war front, ~~things are reported about the same -~~
~~the Finns continuing to be successful in the active and most~~
~~critical area~~ north of Lake Ladoga, ~~There~~ Red units are surrounded - with relieving forces making one attempt after another to get to them, trying in vain, say the Finns. They tell of Red detachments being annihilated in futile attacks; others rounded up and made prisoners; ~~that~~ The fighting in that section, apparently, is the fiercest ~~of~~ the whole war - with the heaviest casualties among the Finns thus far. Stories tell of the medical service overwhelmed with the numbers of the wounded, doctors working day and night, Red Cross trains overcrowded.

VOROSHILOV

It may or may not be a significant thing that the Italian newspapers have been carrying a whole ~~ex~~ series of rumors about the Soviets. Reports not at all favorable to the regime of Red Dictator Stalin. Most of these anti Soviet stories put out in ~~Mussolini~~ Mussolini-land have not been confirmed. They ^{may} just indicate that the Italian Fascists enjoy tales to the detriment of Stalin ~~X~~ Ally of their own Ally, Hitler.

Today we have another one, a rumor printed in ^a~~the~~ newspaper ^{at Padua} ~~Corriere Padano~~ that Voroshilov ~~is~~ in disgrace - Voroshilov the big Red Commisar of the Soviet Army, one of the few important Russian military commanders who escaped the firing squad in the great Stalin purge. He is said to be in dutch with the Kremlin because of the war in ~~Finland~~ Finland. His place ~~is said to be~~ taken by the Red Marshal Blucher. He's the new Red Army commander-in-chief, says the Italian account. That's interesting, because Marshal Blucher who used to be Soviet Commander in the Far East, is ~~not~~ said to have lost his

job in one of the Stalin purges. The Fascist newspaper goes on to say that affairs within the Soviet are in a bad way because of the disasters in Finland.

JAPAN

52
Today the Japanese Government officially asked Great Britain to hand back the twenty-one Germans which a British warship took from a Japanese liner, a week ago. The demand was made by ~~Tokyo~~ Foreign Minister Arita at a conference with the British Ambassador to Tokyo. The Japanese have been fuming about the action of the British warship, and today the Mikado's government brought the matter to something of a showdown - requiring that the Germans be handed back.

The new dispute between Tokyo and London has been followed by an increase of Japanese pressure at Tientsin. There the Japanese blockade of the British concession still goes on - that blockade which began months and months ago, and has ~~always been~~ almost been forgotten. But it has been continuing all the time. And now there's a shortage of food - growing serious, a shortage in the British, French and American concessions alike. ¶ In the past few days the Japanese have been bearing down on Americans, who previously had been treated ~~ixi~~ leniently - allowed to go in and out of the concession area carrying pretty much what they pleased. Now, however, the American action in calling off the Japanese-American

trade treaty has had its effect - Americans no longer getting preferred ~~treatment~~ ^{consideration}.

63
Today's story tells how an American newspaper man was stopped at the barrier because he had some eggs. Another American was stopped because he was carrying some apples. ^R That concession blockade has been a most peculiar situation - without precedent^t. And now it may rise to prominence again, with the new dispute between Tokyo and London, and with the American cancellation of the trade treaty with Japan.

Secretary of the Navy, Charles Edison, appeared today before the House Naval Affairs Committee, and argued - build the navy right up to the topmost figure, ~~that has been suggested,~~ and don't cut down the money to be appropriated. He contended that Congress should okay the amount for which the President called in his budget message - one billion, three hundred million dollars, to construct more warships.

That original figure called for a six year ship-building program - increase the navy by twenty-five per cent in that period of time, let's have seventy-seven new fighting ships. The House Committee, in thinking about economy, has already cut that program down to about one half - a three year plan, instead of six years.

54
And the Committee right now is considering a further slash - to make it a two year ship-building program, twenty-one new fighting ships instead of seventy-seven.

Secretary Edison's argument today ran along the line presented to the Committee on previous occasions - the notion that the Allies might be defeated by Nazi Germany in the present war.

~~Not that this was to be considered probable, but the United States~~

~~Navy must face every possibility, however remote.~~ He went on to contemplate the prospect of Nazi Germany taking over the navies of Great Britain and France. He put it in these words:- "The strength of friendly nations," said he, "might even be turned against us if it should fall into the hands of conquerors.

Theoretically," he reasoned, "the sea power of England and France must be reckoned with." Meaning - it might be used by Nazi Germany against us.

Secretary Edison, in explaining the Navy's plans, stated that the fleet now in the Pacific would remain there. The new ships to be constructed would give us an Atlantic fleet - so that we would have adequate sea power in both oceans.

FARM RELIEF

55
The House of Representatives today began debate on a bill that has elements of the extraordinary. It's the Farm Bill for the next fiscal year, money for rural relief. We all know how important the farmers are politically. Their own particular problem has been a national problem for decades. And this is presidential election year, when you'd expect Congress to be making all sorts of motions to woo the agricultural vote. Yet the bill that today was placed before the House, represents a cut - a drastic slash in money for the farmers. The House Appropriations Committee is going strong on economy. The President's budget called for farm relief funds to the tune of seven hundred and eighty-nine millions ⁰⁷ dollars. Today the Committee cut that down to six hundred and thirty-four million, ~~more than a hundred and fifty million dollars less. It's more than six million dollars less than the farm relief money during the present fiscal year.~~

Today's slash added to the cuts which the Committee has made in other bills, amounts to a total of over three hundred million dollars, ~~which the Committee has trimmed from various expenditures proposed by President Roosevelt and his budget. That's two-thirds of the total reduction which is proposed by the~~

economy advocates. They think the budget figures should be cut to the tune of four hundred million dollars. The idea being - to cut expenditures sufficiently to avoid the special taxes which the president has proposed.

The reduced farm appropriation which the Committee sent to the House today is sure to provoke a fight. Secretary of Agriculture Wallace ~~has~~ gives warning that the economy wave is a danger to the farmers. And it is expected that there will be a strong drive to ^{raise} ~~decrease~~ the farm appropriations. All of which is only to be expected, considering the importance of the farm vote - and this is presidential election year.

BIRTHDAY

When you have a birthday, you don't ordinarily ask for a birthday present - although people have been known to hint around. Today, however, President Roosevelt didn't do any hinting - he asked outright. He said, in effect - "please give me a birthday present." How expensive a gift? "Oh," remarked the President, "something worth between seven and a half and ten million dollars." He made the request to Congress. On his fifty-eighth birthday, he asked the lawmakers to appropriate money to build fifty hospitals, the beginning of a campaign to improve the nation's health.

Today's special message suggests that by using W.P.A. labor, a hundred bed hospital could be built for between a hundred and fifty and two hundred thousand dollars. "This means," said the message, "that we could build fifty such hospitals for between seven million five hundred thousand and ten million dollars;" ~~The plan~~ ^{for} ~~would be to provide such~~ medical institutions ~~in~~ smaller and poorer communities, ~~which right now are deficient in health facilities,~~ "The proposed hospitals," today's message specifies, "should be built only where they are most needed. They should not be constructed where public or private institutions are already available."

For some time past, President Roosevelt has been considering a program of hospital building in places where the need is the greatest, and now he has made his birthday the occasion on which to lay the plan before Congress - like a request for a birthday present.

One bulky gift arrived at the White House today, fifty ^{big} canvas sacks, - ~~big and heavy. Each sack was~~ crammed with dimes, ten thousand of them. A hundred and fifty thousand ten-cent pieces, fifteen thousand dollars. This was the contribution of the City of Washington alone - in the March of Dimes. The local drive, in behalf of the fight against infantile paralysis, ^{was} sponsored by the Washington Star and the National Broadcasting Company. ~~And their representatives today made the delivery of the truckful of dimes.~~ They expect they'll have two thousand dollars more to hand over by the time today's contributions are complete - today, the President's birthday, with all those birthday balls being celebrated in every part of the country - tonight.

DIVER

Up in New England the police have made a large arrest, and the prisoner makes an equally large defense. The magnitude of the arrest is indicated in the news dispatch, which relates - that the cops have grabbed Corky Hellmann, the three hundred and forty-two pound high diver. The case concerns a high dive which the ponderous Corky was to have made, but didn't make. ~~He~~ states that in New Milford, Connecticut, he was engaged to do a high dive into a hole cut through the ice in the Housatonic River. He was to be paid sixty dollars, but when it came to cash - he never got any more than seven dollars and a quarter. His large and copious defense is threefold.

First:- To get a hole cut in the ice would have cost him more than the seven dollars and a quarter which he got. ~~a hole~~ large enough for his three hundred and forty-two pounds to dive into with a splash. So he'd have lost money unless he had undertaken to do a high dive right down ~~on the ice~~ onto the ice. That might have been a splash, but not of water. Corky himself would have splashed all over the place.

Second:- He relates that the water under the ice was too

~~—~~ in addition to being cold.
swift and dangerous. The speedy current would have swept Corky
away under the ice for a total loss, a three hundred and forty-two
pound loss.

Third:- In New Milford they couldn't find a bathing suit
large enough to fit Corky. So you see - he'd have had to make the
icy high dive without a bathing suit, all three hundred and forty-two
pounds of him without a square inch of bathing suit, *on a zero day.*
No, Corky,
bashful Corky
wouldn't do anything like that - he might catch cold.

No hole in the ice and no bathing suit - that's no way
to make a high dive, declares Corky. *And now what*
declares Hugh.