

GREECE

*L.I. Standard. Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1944.  
Sunset.*

Here's the latest from Athens -- which classical city is now in the headlines -- not of war, but of civil war. ~~So recently liberated -- Greece is now a scene of internecine strife.~~

Tonight's latest bulletins from the Hellenic capital tell of British tanks going into action late today against insurrectionists of the Greek Left Wing parties. British armor intervened in a battle that was going on at the Metropolis Hotel in Athens. <sup>P</sup>The word "battle" is justified. The hotel was held by Right Wing elements and was under attack by Left Wing assailants, and both sides were using comparatively heavy equipment -- like mortars. The battle for the hotel was raging with exchanges of bullets and shell fire, when the British tanks turned their guns on the Left Wingers. They didn't fire. Apparently, the Greek radicals preferred not to get into a shooting match with the British -- so recently the liberators of Greece.

And apparently the same thing is true in other cases -- the Left Wing radicals calling off

their civil war battles when confronted by British troops and armor. <sup>TP</sup> However, one earlier story told of British tanks opening fire on Leftists who were shooting from buildings in the heart of Athens.

<sup>TP</sup> This is the latest in the state of civil war, which gave Athens a day of gun fire and bloodshed, the city echoing with the sound of shooting. Earlier reports told how armored forces of the Leftists had laid siege to the main police headquarters and barracks of Athens. They were said to be in control of nineteen of the twenty-four Athenian police stations, capturing some after ~~an~~ violent battles.

<sup>TP</sup> The latest report on casualties indicates that one-hundred-and-seventy persons have been killed and three-hundred-and-ninety-three wounded, in three days of rioting. And the <sup>casualty list</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ is increasing, with skirmishes raging tonight in liberated Athens, ~~XXXXXX~~ liberated, apparently for civil war. <sup>TP</sup> Today the Greek Premier offered his

resignation, as a last minute effort to avert internal strife -- the Premier whose government is bitterly opposed by the E-L-A-S, ~~the~~ the Left Wing faction that fought against the Nazis and ~~now~~ has gone into insurrection. The latest is that the Premier has withdrawn his offer to resign -- this after receiving new assurances of support from the British.

Prime Minister  
In London, ~~Prime Minister~~ Winston Churchill

of the Greek people. "We are working to  
in every possible way," said Churchill.  
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today reaffirmed British support of the present Cabinet in Athens. He stated that the purpose of the Left <sup>ist</sup> organizations was to set up a Communist Dictatorship -- this with weapons provided by the

Allies. ~~Churchill stated that Great Britain and~~

~~the United States were trying in every way to help Greece, and had the support of the overwhelming majority of the Greek people. "We are working to assist them in every possible way," said Churchill, "but we cannot do this," he added, "if the Tommy-Guns which we provided for use against the Germans are now being used in an attempt to impose by violence a Communist Dictatorship."~~

And Churchill added the following: "We shall not hesitate to use the considerable British army now in Greece, and being reinforced, to see that law and order are maintained."



~~The Churchill attitude is meeting with~~

~~opposition in Parliament.~~ Labor and Communist

<sup>in Parliament</sup>  
elements claim that the Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister Anthony Eden are trying to promote the cause  
of conservative interests throughout liberated Europe.

~~seeking to establish a conservative pro-British sphere~~

~~in the Balkans as against another sphere under the influence~~

~~of Soviet Russia.~~

From Washington we have a statement that  
can hardly be considered an okay for the Churchill  
policy in Greece. The Washington declaration applies  
specifically to Italy, where the British have turned  
thumbs down on the former anti-Fascist exile, Count  
Sforza. Our State Department tells us that the  
American policy is to let liberated peoples decide  
for themselves, and not interfere with their choice  
of government, -- and this, with a special reference

to Italy, comes at a time when British troops are  
supporting the existing Greek Government in  
what virtually amounts to civil war.

Some quarters in Washington are expressing  
the fear that Great Britain and Soviet Russia may,  
in liberated Europe, be setting up antagonistic  
spheres of influence.

## ITALY

Today, in the Italian battle, visions of the dim historic past were summoned once again. British troops captured the city of Ravenna. They drove forward in a swift encircling move -- and the Nazis cleared out of the ancient town on the Adriatic coast. <sup>P</sup> Ravenna -- which was the Capital of the West in the late days of the Roman Empire, and which afterward was the seat of the government of the Byzantine Emperor in Italy. The city is a veritable museum of ancient works of art, and the entering British found it badly damaged by bombs and shells. ~~The oldest~~

church in Ravenna, that of St. John the Baptist, was completely destroyed -- a church dating back nearly fifteen hundred years. <sup>P</sup> Ravenna's most famous edifice was the church of St. Apollonaris, built by the Gothic Emperor Theodoric, ~~it~~ and famous for its priceless Byzantine mosaics. There is no word about the fate of this depository of ancient art.



## WESTERN FRONT

The main forward action on the Western Front was in the Saar today -- Patton's Third Army storming ahead. A new crossing of the Saar River has been made, this at a point south of the captured city of Saurlautern -- American troops establishing a bridgehead one mile deep. And at the same time, advances of four and a half miles were scored in the effort to close in on the key industrial city of Saarbrücken from the west and south. Saarbrücken is under devastating bombardment -- as it has been for seven days. The city lies battered and burning, after being a target for nearly six thousand rounds of shells -- which were poured into its railroad yards and into defense positions of the Siegfried line nearby.

Northward, on the plain of Cologne, a ~~attack~~

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a still more furious battle is being fought with American troops smashing forward today for one mile against the most bitter of German opposition. The one-mile gain was scored in the Huertgen forest, ~~and resulted in the capture of the town of Bergstein, less than a mile away from the Roer River, the last river barrier in front of Cologne.~~

~~The Germans themselves speak of the battle along the Western Front in terms that sound almost like exaggeration.~~ <sup>Q</sup> The Berlin broadcast tells of eighty Allied divisions storming forward, <sup>^</sup> between two-and-a-half million and three million men. The German radio describes their action in these <sup>(dramatic)</sup> ~~melo~~ words: "Thrusting at the German armies in the terrible inferno of the most modern battle of all time."

## AIR WAR

A monster air blow hit Nazi Germany today -- more than two thousand Allied planes out in daylight assaults. Of these thirteen hundred and fifty were American -- and one of their targets was Berlin.

The German air defense was furious; squadrons of as many as one hundred planes hurling themselves simultaneously against the American airmada. Huge air battles were fought, and at least <sup>ninety-one</sup> ~~eighty-one~~ German fighters were shot down. One account describes the sky as being -- "filled with burning planes." →



## RUSSIA

Tonight we find a new geographical factor in the Russian offensive that is sweeping through Hungary. Moscow announces the capture of one hundred and twenty Hungarian towns, including two on the shores of Lake Balaton. That body of water is described as the great barrier on the road to Vienna.

~~It's a long lake that lies a considerable distance across the Hungarian Plain, as the level land grows narrow -- with lines of mountains converging ahead, the Alps, and the highlands of Slovakia. The mountain form an angle, with Vienna at the apex. And Lake Balaton lies crosswise, like a sort of base of a~~

~~triangle~~ The Russians are now along the shores <sup>of</sup> Lake Balaton and will have to drive around either ~~one~~ end of the lake or both to get at Vienna.

Meanwhile, their drive to the lake is helping to complete their encirclement of the Hungarian capital Budapest.

ADD RUSSIA

One report states that ~~the~~ Nazi officials have been ordered out of Vienna. Switzerland quotes a Berlin report that the evacuation is to be immediate, presumably in anticipation of a Russian drive on Vienna. <sup>They</sup> ~~are~~ convicted of

mass murder at a Nazi concentration camp in Poland.

*I have some Pacific news and some home news, but first let's hear from Stan. of Cal.*

## EXECUTIONS

Soviet Russia has executed more Germans for atrocities. The word today is that five officers of Hitler's Storm Troopers were hanged in the public square in the Polish city of Lublin, while twenty-five thousand people looked on. They <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ convicted of mass murders at a Nazi concentration camp in Poland.

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## PHILIPPINES

From the Philippines General MacArthur reports the sinking of six more Japanese vessels -- and one of these was a warship -- a destroyer. These latest successes were scored by naval and air forces -- ~~the~~ destroyer sent to the bottom by Liberator<sup>S</sup> bombers. All of this -- while ground fighting on the island of Leyte was almost at a standstill because of the heavy rains, the battle bogged down.

From the Palau Islands we hear rather surprisingly that Japanese resistance has been eliminated on the island of ~~La~~ Peleliu. ~~By~~ ~~the~~ The surprise lies in the fact that Japs have been holding out there for so long -- Peleliu having been invaded seventy-three days previously, and as good as conquered weeks ago. ~~That~~ Tonight's latest dispatch from Pearl Harbor tells us that ~~a~~ ~~total~~ ~~of~~ thirteen thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight soldiers on Peleliu -- that many killed, ~~and~~ numbers of them held out until now. The Japanese fought to

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the death, in caves, American troops taking week after week to rout out the rest of them. They battled on, in remote caverns while Peleliu was being transformed into an American naval and air stronghold. ¶ In one cave the bodies of the two top-ranking Japanese commanders were found, a Major General and a Colonel. Apparently they held a ceremony of burning their regimental flag and then they committed hari-kari -- with similar ceremony.

Japanese capital. And today Brigadier General Bessell, Commander of the superfortresses, announced that the aircraft plant had been hit. "But," qualified the General, "not destroyed by any means."

He explained that when the giant bombers attacked, a violent tail wind was blowing, and they were moving at more than four hundred miles an hour -- which made any accurate fire exceedingly difficult. Consequently the Nakajima plant was damaged -- but not destroyed.

## SUPERFORTRESSES

Just to keep ourselves from letting optimism get the <sup>better</sup> ~~best~~ of us too easily, let's take note of a statement issued today by the command of the B-29s. At Saipan, the base of the superfortresses, they've been studying reconnaissance pictures made over Tokyo -- photographs in particular of the Nakajima aircraft plant. That big airplane factory was a target for the B-29s on their first and fourth raids against the Japanese capital. And today Brigadier General Hansell, Commander of the superfortresses, announced that the aircraft plant had been hit. "But," qualified the General, "not destroyed by any means."

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## STETTINIUS

The new Secretary of State is assuming all the duties of his important office -- except one. It was announced today that Secretary Stettinius will not deal with any matters of international aviation. These will be directed by President Roosevelt himself.

~~Questions of international aviation that come to the State Department will go to Assistant Secretary of State Clayton, and he, instead of reporting to his immediate chief, will take such matters directly to the White House.)~~

This is at the direct request and insistence of the new Secretary of State himself.

Why? Because the Secretary, ~~Stettinius~~, has a brother-in-law at the head of one of the greatest of international airlines. <sup>Q</sup> ~~His~~ <sup>of Stettinius</sup> sister is the wife of Juan Trippe, president of Pan American. And Stettinius does not want, as Secretary of State, to pass on matters that might be close to the family.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

15)

Congress today defeated the White House on the Social Security issue, with the House voting to freeze the Social Security taxes at one percent. The vote was two-hundred-and-sixty-three to seventy-two.

Since the Democrats have a clear cut majority in the Lower House, it means that a lot of Democrats formed a coalition with Republicans to reject the White House demand for a doubling of Social Security taxes.

Both Democrat and Republican leaders of the House Ways and Means Committee, Doughton of North Carolina and Knudson of Minnesota, joined in asking the House to pass the Social Security freeze which is expected to be vetoed by the President.

## ROMANCE

A question of love and romance was brought before the Post Office Committee of the Senate today, the Chairman of which is Senator McKellar of Tennessee -- a veteran bachelor. He's seventy-one, and has never been married. And you'd think he might be crusty and hard-hearted in the presence of sentimental moonbeams.

The question of love and romance debated today was that of Miss Vivien Kellems, a Connecticut manufacturer, and a loud opponent of the New Deal -- who is likewise on record as having been in voluminous and affectionate correspondence with a German Count in Argantina -- <sup>Count</sup> Frederick von Zedlitz. Some while ago excerpts from letters exchanged between Miss Kellems and the German Count were broadcast by Radio Columnist Drew Pearson, and there were remarks about her being in communication with a Nazi. Miss Kellems retorted with remarks of her own -- a fine thing, when a lady can't write to the boy friend without her letters getting on the radio.

Today she made her complaint before the Senate



Post Office Committee. She said the Count down in Argentina was not a Nazi, and she brought along letters that she had received from him - one hundred and fifty letters - *sighing letters.*

That drew a remark from Senator McKellar, the veteran bachelor. "One hundred and fifty is a lot of letters," he said. *then he* And added, "I don't believe I wrote one hundred and fifty letters in all my attempts to get married." ~~and then he~~ *he:* sighed; "I tried one hundred and one women, but they all turned me down."

"Yes," responded Miss Kellems sharply, "and perhaps if you had written more letters you'd have had better luck."

"Yes, perhaps," murmured the much unmarried Senator -- the veteran old bachelor who in the presence of sentimental moonbeams, was not so crusty and hard-hearted.

BERMUDA

On the island of Bermuda there was a change of stand today -- a stand taken toward American sailors. Last week the Bermuda House of Assembly put a curfew on American sailors who are attached to the naval base granted to the United States under the fifty-destroyer deal. A former President of the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce charged the sailors with all sorts of misbehavior, and demanded that they be confined to their base at night. So curfew was imposed on them, and the American naval commanders obligingly followed suit -- imposing their own curfew on the ~~American~~ sailors.

Today it was altogether different, with the Bermuda House of Assembly hastening to reverse its position. The gentleman<sup>a</sup> who last week made heated charges against the American sailors, now spoke just as warmly -- praising them. He said only a tiny

few misbehaved. The conduct of the overwhelming majority was, as he said -- exemplary.

Why the sudden change of mind? First, the boys are regular demons; and now they are angels. The answer is -- *yes, you've greased it, a* protest by the merchants of Bermuda.

Since the imposition of the curfew on the American sailors, business has fallen off to almost nothing. ~~Their~~ Profits have vanished. The sailors might not be such models of British propriety at all times, but they were spending bundles of American ~~cash~~ *dough*.

The merchants pleaded -- "lift that curfew," *please* and today it was lifted. However, at last reports the American naval commanders showed no inclination of lifting their own curfew, and the Bermuda merchants were still in a pathetic state of mind.

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