

SUICIDE

( The suicide of the Captain of the GRAF SPEE capped <sup>s</sup> the climax of ~~that~~ <sup>of the sea</sup> ~~really~~ <sup>or series of</sup> ~~series of high sea~~ <sup>series of</sup> ~~dramas.~~ <sup>dramas.</sup>

~~You might also call it~~ <sup>You might call it.</sup> Triple suicide - first the pocket battleship, <sup>latest development for war at sea;</sup> then the <sup>luxury</sup> liner COLUMBUS, whose survivors reached New York today; and

finally, Captain Hans Langsdorf, commanding officer in the most spectacular naval battle of this war. ~~the outstanding British victory.~~

Almost as spectacular is the story that comes to light as an aftermath of Langsdorf's ~~active~~ <sup>The gallant Captain of the Graf Spee</sup> hari-kari. ~~he~~ left behind

three letters, one for his wife, one for his parents, and one for the Nazi Ambassador at Buenos Aires. And it is that third letter which seems to reveal a strange tale. For what the Ambassador made public about it, indicates that it was true that (Langsdorf destroyed the GRAF SPEE only under orders from Hitler at Berlin.) And it appears that those orders cut him to the quick. Apparently he had signified his ~~inner~~ intentions of killing himself then and there.) But further orders from Berlin led him to postpone the destruction of himself until he had accomplished his task and brought all the men under him to safety on land.

The announcement from the German Embassy at Buenos Aires

talks about Langsdorf's suicide almost as though it were one of the greatest naval victories of all time, for the statement reads:-

I QUOTE "The Commander of the glorious cruiser GRAF SPEE sacrificed his life for the Fatherland by taking his life voluntarily." That's the way the Nazis look upon that suicide - an act of naval heroism to be celebrated for the glory of the cause.

Before he shot himself, Langsdorf asked the permission of the Argentinian authorities to address his men, the officers and crew of the scuttled GRAF SPEE. As he put it, " a heart to heart talk." The request was granted, and the men were mustered in the hotel grounds. Everybody left the grounds except the crew of the SPEE and officials of the Argentine Republic. The sailors formed a hollow square around their Captain, and kept a dead silence as he spoke to them in tones of profound emotion, and gave them his last command. Just what he said to them, we don't know. So far it has been kept secret. But evidently it did not indicate that he intended to kill himself. For when the news of the suicide reached the crew at first they refused to believe it. Some of them repudiated the news and shouted: "That's a lie!" And others

said:- "Do you think we would be laughing ~~and~~ joking if our Captain were dead?"

At home, In Berlin, this final dramatic act of Captain Langsdorf was reported without comment.



BRITAIN

British newspapers today were busy drawing conclusions from the sinking of the GRAF SPEE? AND also from scuttling of the German liner COLUMBUS. The principal conclusion seems to be that the neutrality plans of the American republics, for a neutral zone, has gone up the flute. Just as many of us have been saying.

Spokesmen for British officialdom pointed out today that the Allies could not accept the Declaration of Panama unless Germany also accepted it. And it has been highly doubtful all along that Germany would accept any three hundred mile neutral zone.

Newspapermen asked White House Secretary Early, what about the British claim that the neutrality zone is a flop? Early referred the newspaper men to the speech made by Under-Secretary Welles last night, in which he prophesied that the twenty-one American republics would take action to compel respect for the Declaration of Panama,

At the White House today, the Secretary, Early, said that the scuttling of the COLUMBUS had not violated the neutrality of the safety zone. The Navy Department and the State Department are convinced that the Germans sank the COLUMBUS because of that British destroyer which had overtaken here.



~~But when all is said and done, even the landing of the~~

~~COLUMBUS survivors fails to clear up the big puzzle. It's the~~

~~question everybody has been asking today.~~ <sup>But</sup> (What's the meaning of

this whole COLUMBUS business anyway? Why was ~~she~~ <sup>the German liner</sup> ever taken out

of Vera Cruz, with British men-o-war known to be patrolling the

North and South Atlantic and the Caribbean, on the lookout for

German vessels of any kind? ) There ~~seem~~ <sup>doesn't</sup> seem to have been any

rational purpose in taking her to sea except a somewhat forlorn

hope of repeating the exploit of the BREMEN, <sup>maybe</sup> or ~~to~~ <sup>refuel</sup>

a pocket battleship

Uncle Sam's ship TUSCALOOSA steamed into New York Bay today <sup>bringing</sup> ~~and brought~~ five hundred and seventy-nine German sailors. The entire crew of the COLUMBUS, bar two, were landed, first at Bedloe's Island, then taken to the immigration station at Ellis Island. And the Captain of the TUSCALOOSA reported to the Navy that all the survivors of the COLUMBUS were in good spirits. Only ~~two of the~~ firemen are listed as missing.

And observers couldn't help seeing ~~in with their own eyes~~ that the rescued German sailors were indeed in good spirits, laughing, chatting and singing. A few ~~of them~~ had overcoats, but most <sup>had</sup> ~~of them~~ only what they stood up in, for the last of them were picked off the blazing <sup>great</sup> ~~body of that~~ German ~~luxury~~ liner not <sup>took her final</sup> long before she ~~plunged below the surface.~~

They were <sup>all</sup> allowed to land on Uncle Sam's territory as distressed seamen. As such they can remain at Ellis Island <sup>for</sup> sixty days. But the German Government <sup>must</sup> ~~has to~~ pay the bill. eventually.

~~All this was decided after continued discussions among top flight government officials at Washington.~~

*news! -*  
Just stated that he ~~Later, this evening~~ the Commander of the COLUMBUS ~~has~~ *only*  
~~said he had~~ ordered the scuttling of his ship after a British  
destroyer ~~had~~ fired two shots across his bow. ) The minute he ~~had~~  
gave the signal, members of the crew rushed up and down the  
companionways, opening floodcocks, starting fires here, there and  
everywhere. Thereupon he ordered all hands *to the* abandon ship.  
As soon as the life boats were clear, the Captain of the COLUMBUS  
slid down a rope himself, off the bridge, into the last lifeboat.

He ~~also~~ ~~made public something~~ ~~else that~~ made public something  
else that was not generally known. When the COLUMBUS left Vera Cruz  
at noon of the Fourteenth, she was escorted by destroyers of the  
American Navy. And the German captain added that there were  
constantly one or two American warships in sight and that the  
TUSCALOOSA had taken up the escort on the day before the scuttling.

But Still not a word as to his reason for leaving Vera Cruz,  
except this: "If you get an order,  
You obey that order. That's the  
way it is!" said Capt. Daehne  
of the Columbus - shrugging  
his shoulders.



FINLAND

On fifteen miles of Finnish soil (the Russian Reds have been launching the most ferocious attack of the whole campaign. Column after column of Red infantry, supported by tanks and heavy artillery fire, hurled themselves on the Finns entrenched in the Karelian woods, and up and down the hills. But the Finns were ready for them with a triple line of defense, and the <sup>latest</sup> ~~communique~~ from Helsinki reports that the Bolshevik invaders <sup>have been</sup> ~~were~~ mowed down <sup>in</sup> ~~in large numbers, and~~ Stalin's men lost many of their tanks.) <sup>fabulous</sup> <sup>Also that</sup>

In addition to their well prepared and desperate defenses, the Finns had a new ally today. The Russians found themselves facing a new general, "General Winter." ~~And he's~~ <sup>has</sup> a general who throughout the past centuries served the Russians themselves in good stead more than once. I believe it was one of the Czars who declared that his most reliable officer was ~~Febr~~ "General February."

In their <sup>last</sup> report to the Allied Supreme War Council at Paris, the ~~Finnish Government~~ Finns announced that they could probably hold out provided the usual snows fell around Christmas time. The snows are on time, even a bit ahead of schedule, maybe in time to save the Finnish defenders, for this year at any rate.

Better luck than the Poles had against the Germans when they expected the autumn rains to bog down Hitler's invasion.

In northern Finland, the Russians attack ~~was still~~ *also been*  
*blocked by today's*  
~~worse obstructed by the~~ storm of blinding snow. The Reds in Arctic Finland had planned to drive south along the highway that runs parallel to the Norwegian border, drive south to Railhead and thus conquer the Finnish communication of the Gulf of Bothnia. But today the Red invaders were unable to advance in the teeth of the ~~blinding~~ blizzard, *Great* ~~with~~ snowdrifts making progress impossible for any mechanized units.

SWEDEN

53  
A brief item from China, by way of London, ~~contains a~~  
~~hint that may be prophetic and most significant.~~ The German  
clients of the German Bank in Peiping have received a word of  
advice. That advice is to liquidate all their holdings of  
Swedish currency as soon as possible.

*All of which*  
~~That~~ opens the way to much ~~grave~~ conjecture. Observers  
are wondering whether it means that the Nazis have information that  
Stalin intends to overrun Sweden shortly just as he's trying to  
gobble up Finland.



HOOVER

Ex-President Herbert Hoover is to be the principal speaker at a ~~big meeting~~ <sup>giant rally</sup> tonight, ~~That is~~ the "Let Us Help Finland" rally at Madison Square Garden, ~~New York~~. Fifteen minutes of Mr. Hoover's speech, from nine forty-five to ten P.M., Eastern Standard Time, will be broadcast over the Blue Network of the N.B.C. ~~The~~ Other speakers at that mass meeting will be Mayor LaGuardia of New York, Senators ~~Butt~~ Wheeler of Montana, and ~~Bob~~ Wagner of New York, <sup>the eloquent</sup> ~~the~~ Finnish Minister, <sup>Dr. Procope,</sup> Dorothy Thompson, and ~~and Mathew Wolf~~ <sup>Wolf</sup> Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor.

VETERAN

Only two men who started in the ranks of the American Navy ever became Admirals. One of them was John Paul Jones. The other was a man who just died, Rear Admiral Reginald Nicholson. And His position was unique on the retired list of Uncle' Sam's Navy. "He was the last surviving naval veteran of the Civil War. Admiral Nicholson began his service for Uncle Sam when he was only eleven years old, as cleark for the captain of the U.S.S. STATE OF GEORGIA, in the Civil War.

Rear Admiral Nicholson served through no fewer than three wars. In the Spanish American War he was a Lieutenant Commander, chief nagigation officer of the Battleship OREGON, in charge of nagivation on that famous full-speed cruise around Cape Horn. Then he became Rear Admiral in Nineteen Nine when he was Chief of the Bureau of Navigation. When Uncle Sam got into the World War in Nineteen Seventeen, Admiral Nicholson was recalled for actice service.

So here's a salute to the last naval veteran of the Civil War, a seasoned, gallant and distinguished officer.



WEATHER

And the weather man reports winter over here. A storm from the Missouri Valley, moving northeast. Parts of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan are already buried under six inches of snow.



CATS

Five years ago a lady in Milwaukee left a fortune of —  
forty-one thousand dollars, and <sup>Yes —</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>her</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> provided  
that the money should be used to support the cats. The lady also  
had eleven nieces and nephews. ~~But~~ <sup>they</sup> were not to get any money  
until the cats died.

The consequence was a rather complicated series of legal  
<sup>proceedings.</sup> ~~proceedings.~~ Thirteen of ~~these~~ <sup>the</sup> cats did die, whereupon the court

ordered that sixteen thousand five hundred dollars of the money  
should be ~~taken~~ <sup>not among the remaining 5 cats but</sup> and divided <sup>among</sup> the heirs. ~~and yesterday the~~

<sup>The</sup> county judge decreed <sup>§</sup> that nine thousand, nine hundred more should  
be given to the heirs, even though five cats are still alive.

Nine dollars a month, says the judge, should be enough for each  
cat. ~~Fancy poor pussy having to struggle along on such a pittance!~~

But, there's still a joker in ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> order. If any of  
~~these~~ <sup>the</sup> cats become ill, the allowance will have to be increased for <sup>to pay</sup> ~~the~~  
<sup>best</sup> medical attendance.

APPLE

A small boy walked through the front door of the City Hospital in Boston. He was a sturdy little five year old, and in his hand he had a bright red apple. Solemnly he walked up to the desk and asked for Santa Claus. The hospital people ~~asked him~~ <sup>wanted to know</sup> what made him think ~~that~~ Santa Claus was there? And the little lad explained that Mommie had said ~~he~~ <sup>Santa</sup> was sick <sup>this year</sup> so he brought Santa an apple to make him well. <sup>had</sup>

Later on, the hospital folks learned that his pretty young mama, who is a singer out of a job, had a good reason ~~for what she had told little Ronnie.~~ <sup>little Ronnie that</sup> She had told ~~him~~ the Saint of Christmas was ill so Ronnie would understand why he and his reindeer ~~hadn't~~ <sup>failed to</sup> come to their house.



## FORTUNE

The hero of this one is a seventy year old negro, Joseph Johnson of Kansas City. Joe had a job cleaning bricks for a firm of house-wreckers. His wage, seventy-five cents for every thousand bricks he cleaned.

While on the job, a tin box came tumbling out from between some bricks of a house. Joe opened the box, and then you should have seen him roll them eyes! Lo and behold, it was stuffed full of gold certifiates, five hundred and thousand dollar gold certificates, and hundred dollar notes. So what did Joe do? He just stuffed his pockets full of them notes and then he beat it home. But he couldn't keep his secret. He just had to tell about his good fortune. Yes suh, he even called in a neighbor to help him count all them bills. And they counted up to twelve thousand, nine hundred dollars! Wow!

The two of them called in still a third party, a thirty-four year old negro woman. And they told her to take the roll and hide it. Put it in the bottom of an old trunk. But the negro woman was religious and she went ~~to~~ straightway to the bishop - Oh! Oh! and the bishop? He decided that the Metropolitan Spiritual



Church of Christ of Kansas City would be a better receptacle for that fortune than an old trunk. So the bishop and the woman went down into the labyrinth underground passages below that Spiritual Church of Christ and there they hid the bills in an old Swiss music box. All unbeknown to old Joe Johnson, who found the twelve thousand, five hundred.

But there was another circumstance which was also unknown not only to Joe, but unknown to his neighbor, unknown to the colored woman, and even unknown to the bishop of the Spiritual Church of Christ. When Joe found that old tin box, the man living in the house next door saw him, saw him open the box, saw him take the money out. And he had telephoned the police! So the Kansas City cops came to Joe and Joe had to tell 'em he didn't have the big stack of dough any longer.

Whereupon the cops went to church. And there they found the old Swiss music box. But they found only sixty-eight hundred dollars of the money in it. After the officers had exerted a little pressure, the negro woman coughed up six hundred she had held out, and said she had given all the rest to the bishop. The bishop vowed

he had shown the police the hiding place of all the money. But later in the day the police found five thousand odd dollars more - tucked away in a cedar chest in which the bishop stored the sacred robes of his office as the spiritual head of the Spiritual Church of Christ of Kansas City!

P.S. Twenty dollars is still missing!