

L.T. SUNOCO. THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1941

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

They have found the missing airliner, and everyone aboard is safe. All day long there was desperate anxiety for the passenger plane that vanished in Florida, when it ran into storm and rain and low hanging clouds. Aboard were sixteen persons, including Dr. George Crile, world famous surgeon and pathologist -- a great contemporary light of science. The worst of news was feared, but the latest is -- the best of news. The plane found, forced down, safe landing, everybody okay.

WAR

There was a lightning flicker in the war today. Nothing so vastly important - but startling. The British have evacuated Benghazi. The empire forces have retired from that important North African city which they captured from the Italians in such brilliant triumph about two months ago. <sup>Now they are</sup> ~~The attacking force of the~~ ~~Axis enemy is~~ <sup>onsted by the</sup> German. Late today, a dispatch flashed from British headquarters at Cairo saying that Benghazi has been abandoned because of a sweeping attack by a German armored column.

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The surprise in this news is vivid. In days past, we've heard that German units, reenforcing the beaten Italian army, were skirmishing with the British in the war of the desert. There was no indication, however, that the squadrons of Nazi tanks were in any large force. The Germans claimed, and the British admitted, the seizure of a desert outpost, but that was regarded as more of a minor thrust than anything else.

This morning the news was that German motorized units had reached a point eighty miles south of Benghazi. All of which gave no indication that the British were about to evacuate the city.

TP  
The <sup>i</sup>Cairo dispatch tells us that the empire forces have ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

given up a hundred and seventy miles of coastline which they <sup>had</sup> seized  
at the high-water mark of the <sup>in</sup> overwhelming victories against the  
Italians. Cairo ~~Further~~ makes the comment that the advance of the  
armored columns of the Germans has been almost as fast as the  
dazzling British drive which swept Mussolini's broken legions  
out of half of the Province of Libya.

t9  
This Benghazi news has a strange sound for me. Only  
last night I worked on a Movietone Newsreel picture of the capture  
of the city - a bright and fine looking North African place.  
The film showed the unfurling of the British flag, the  
proclamation of the British Government, the masses of captured  
Italian equipment - warplanes, tanks, artillery, <sup>and</sup> the devastated  
harbor ~~with~~ with the litter of wrecked warships - blasted by the  
R.A.F. The story was one of flaming military success, the capture  
of Benghazi having been the crowning blow in Britain's magnificent  
victories on the desert, ~~a disastrous blow to the Fascists.~~

But <sup>Now</sup> - what does today's evacuation of Benghazi mean?  
Are we to think that the armored might of Germany has been thrown  
into North Africa to retrieve the situation lost by the Italians?

Or is it that General Wavell has withdrawn the bulk of his superb empire army from Libya? Perhaps the Nazi armored columns have been able to take Benghazi because the larger mass of Wavell's empire forces have been transferred from North Africa to Greece, to the Balkan area to meet the German threat there. <sup>R</sup> Let's turn to that area. Berlin declares that there are three hundred and fifty thousand British troops in Greece - near the border of Jugoslavia. And here's a late rumor - that the British Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Archibald Wavell, is in Jugoslavia tonight. The victor in the North African campaign is said to be in Belgrade conferring with the Jugoslav army <sup>chiefs,</sup> This seems not so improbable - for Jugoslavia appears to be the predestined theatre of the next stroke of war.

<sup>again</sup> Belgrade reports heavy concentrations of German troops on the frontier - particularly a mass mobilization of air power.

The Nazi war fleet of the sky ready to strike in force. ~~They are ready~~

~~They are ready~~ This information is pointed <sup>(up)</sup> dramatically by a

Jugoslav announcement today. Belgrade, the capital, was declared

an open city. This was repeated again and again today over the

Jugoslav radio - Belgrade an open city and therefore an illegal

*And two other cities likewise.*  
target for bombing. At the same time it flashed urgent instructions

for a blackout. The Yugoslav radio told the people - "when the sirens

sound tonight the city must be blacked out."

BALKANS

A personal tragedy marks the Balkan puzzle tonight. Count Teleki, ~~the~~ Premier of Hungary, killed himself at dawn this morning.

For hours Budapest denied the suicide, and gave merely dark intimations about the death of the Premier. There was mention of what was called -- "tragic circumstances". Then later today the admission was made. Count Teleki took his life by shooting, and the reason is described in these words:- "connected with the international political situation." Meanwhile reports emanating from outside of Hungary were saying that <sup>the Hungarian Premier</sup> Count Teleki preferred to die rather than to submit to German demands that ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Hungary be taken over as a base for a Nazi attack on Yugoslavia. This is confirmed in somewhat cryptic fashion by a later dispatch from Budapest which relates that shortly before he died the ~~Hungarian~~ Premier told his cabinet that a crisis would occur soon. He is quoted as having used these words:- "An important event which will crystalize the situation within forty-eight hours."

So in the somber story of suicide in Budapest we have an intimation that a Nazi German attack on Yugoslavia is planned to occur soon -- maybe within forty-eight hours. ~~Yugoslavia seems to~~

The note that the Secretary of State handed to the Italian Ambassador is both polite and very much to the point. It doesn't mention the sabotage of the Italian ships taken over by the United States government, but the implication is clear enough.

The captain of one of the damaged ships <sup>has</sup> stated that the command for the wrecking job had been given him by the Italian Naval Attache'.

So here <sup>is the</sup> note handed by Secretary Hull to the Italian Ambassador:- "I have the honor to state that various facts and circumstances have come to the attention of the Government of the United States connecting Admiral Alberto Lais, Naval Attache of the Royal Italian Embassy, with the commission by certain persons of acts of violation of the laws of the United States."

In that fashion the United States tells Italy that its Naval Attache in Washington is persona non grata, and asks that he be recalled.

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The incident reminds us vividly of events that led up to the United States entrance into the World War, when <sup>this country</sup> ~~the United States~~ in similar fashion asked <sup>for</sup> the recall of the military and naval attaches of the Kaiser's Germany. They were involved in sabotage and

subversive activities <sup>over here</sup> ~~in this country~~. The Ambassador of Austro-Hungary was similarly sent packing.

Today's event coincides with noisy crowd demonstrations in Italy against the democracies -- including, of course, The United States. And in Nazi Germany too there's anti-American action -- American residents rounded up by the sinister Gestapo, detained and questioned.



## STRIKE

The Ford strike takes on a new and twisty complication in the late news. Into the negotiations between the Ford Company and the C.I.O. is tossed a demand by an A.F. of L. union. Homer Martin, who used to be head of the C.I.O. auto workers, comes forward with the announcement that he has been hired by President Green of the A. F. of L. to organize the Ford workers and have the River Rouge plant reopened, so that A.F. of L. men can go to work. Which seems to tangle things up still more.

They were tangled enough this morning, when the Ford Company refused to attend the negotiations with the union, because of today's alleged C.I.O. violation of the truce made yesterday. The United States Conciliator tried to straighten this out, went to the plant said there had been some violation by the union, and then talked the Company back into the negotiations. That being settled, the new complication developed -- the A.F. of L. angle.

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Homer Martin has had a variegated career. He was once the national hop, skip and jump champion. Later he led the Automobile Workers out of the A.F. of L. and into the CIO. Then he got out of that union, and since then has been a salesman of chemicals. Now he

returns to the world of labor, saying that he has been commissioned by the A. F. of L. to put Federation men into the Ford plant and operate it. He confronted the negotiators with the demand that the C.I.O. picket lines be removed, so that the A.F. of L. workers could get in. You can imagine how the C.I.O. representatives take this! It certainly makes things intricate, and that's the state of Ford affairs tonight -- very intricate.

In the Allis-Chalmers walkout, a group of non-striking workers today demanded that the plant be opened. They want the Governor to take measuresto enable them to go back to work. The C.I.O. has cancelled its plan for a solidarity demonstration in Milwaukee, a one-day work stappage and a parade of all the C.I.O.members in the city. That was planned for tomorrow, but the C.I.O. decided not to do it. The Defense Mediation Board assembled today to begin action for the settlement of the Allis-Chalmers Strike. It is believed that the Board will ask the Company to reopen and the strikers to go back to work pending mediation by the Board. The Allis-Chalmers trouble is regarded as the first big test of the Board's power.

Thnngs look rather optimistic in the soft caoal walkout. They say that the majority of operators are ready to sign a contract with

the United Mine Workers - with only the Southern mine owners dissenting. They object to the union demand that the southern mines ~~XXXXXX~~ pay the same wage scales as in the north.

In Washington, Congress continues to be mightily disturbed about the strike situation in defense industries. Today Administration Leader McCormick of Massachusetts said he believed it was time for the President to speak out and denounce the strikes. This sentiment was heartily cheered. Secretary of War Stimson stated that the strikes are seriously impeding the delivery of defense materials to the army.

NAVY

The Navy is issuing a call for volunteers in one branch of the nautical service - the medical ~~branch~~. The fleet of the U.S.A. wants eleven hundred recruits for the Hospital Corps Reserve. - ~~The Navy needs~~ pharmacists, medical technicians, male nurses, experienced first aid workers. <sup>all to get</sup> ~~And they'll be given~~ ratings in accordance with their experience and qualification.

TORTARIELLO

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At Seabright, New Jersey, was staged a hair-raising drama of a man in peril of the sea. It turns out now that the hero has figured in a whole series of hair-raising dramas - seems to have a talent for that sort of thing. His name is Gene Tortariello, and excitement came to him first when his uncle invented some pills. The uncle is quite an inventive genius, and the pills were supposed to have the property of keeping people from drowning. Tortariello, the nephew, was not lacking in courage. He essayed to test the anti-drowning pills, and, ~~he~~ nearly drowned. They got him out of the water just in time.

A little while later a friend of this same Tortariello invented a new kind of parachute, a sort of umbrella. Tortariello still had his courage, and he tested the umbrella parachute. He jumped from a forty foot bridge ~~xxxxxx~~ into the Shrewsbury River; the contraption didn't work, and once more he nearly drowned.

The next drama in his life had nothing to do with drowning. Still worse - it concerned romance. He grew so jealous of the girl friend that he chained her to the steering wheel of his

car. Maybe it was the same car that figures in this latest Tortariello episode. Along the shore he happened to drop his automobile keys, and somehow these fell among some big boulders at the edge of the ocean. Tortariello climbed among the boulders and went reaching for the keys. The big rocks shifted, and down he went. The boulders closed over him, and he was trapped, and the tide was coming in. It was a bad spot for Tortariello.

Some friends came to help him, but they couldn't get him out. The boulders were too big - and the tide was rising fast. It was ~~then~~ above the ankles of Tortariello. It rose to his knees. The Coast Guards were summoned, and they got a derrick to move the rocks. The water was as high as the waist of Tortariello. Soon it would be over his head. Finally, with the aid of the derrick, the Coast Guards got him out. And once again Tortariello escaped drowning!

## SKATER

Today a young woman entered the United States, and awaiting her in this land were twenty thousand dollars and three thousand proposals of marriage. Talk about American hospitality! We all know what we could do with twenty thousand bucks, but three thousand proposals of marriage might embarrass even the most romantic of us.

The lucky girl is Vera Hrubá. Vera is a blonde from Czechoslovakia. A figure skater -- with accent on figure. And her face is all right too. Some while ago, she came to the United States. Her figure figured in a lot of figure skating. The only trouble was that her permit for staying in the country ran out. So the story broke that she'd have to <sup>go</sup> back to Nazi-dominated Czechoslovakia, unless ..... Unless she promptly procured an American husband. ~~Me~~ Marriage to an American would permit Vera to stay on.

Vera, the figure skater, described herself in these terms - "a romantic, home-loving girl." So, with a disposition like that, a husband wouldn't be so hard to take -- and Vera was resigned to it. The publicity got a good response -- three thousand gentlemen were willing to enable Vera the figure skater to remain in the good old U.S.A.

In the meantime Vera was informed that she could renew her stay in this land by going to Canada and reentering under the Czechoslovakian immigration quota.

So Vera went to Canada, and today reentered the United States. The mountain of proposals of marriage still waiting.

Moreover, at Lafayette, Indiana, Mrs. Nan Foley has died and left Vera a legacy of twenty thousand dollars. We are not told just why. That and three thousand suiters - the luck of Vera the figure skater.

Now maybe Hugh can tell us about some luck for the rest of us. How about it, Hugh?