

LONDON

C.I. - P+G. Monday, March 21, 1949.

The London government proclaimed today that all political processions would be banned for the next three months - no political parades. This was announced in Parliament ~~today~~, after one of the wildest nights of civil disturbance that London has ever known. The ban on parades has been imposed because the London police commissioner has informed the Home Office that he has not sufficient force to prevent outbreaks - not enough Bobbies. <sup>TP</sup> The cause of the uproar was that arch trouble-maker Sir Oswald Mosley and his outfit of British Fascists. They were troublesome before the Second World War, with their imitations of a Mussolini and Italian Black Shirts. During the war, they were relatively quiet, but when hostilities were ended - who should appear again but Sir Oswald Mosley and his British Fascists.

<sup>TP</sup> Three years ago, Nineteen Forty-Six, they stirred up a lot of disturbance -- provoking mob violence by the Communists and other ~~if~~ leftists. The British Government at that time put a ban on political

processions, but the British really don't believe in that sort of thing - having the notion that all sorts of political demonstrations should be permitted. So a few weeks ago, the ban was lifted - and as promptly Sir Oswald Moseley and his ~~the~~ Fascists scheduled a parade. They picked just about the most hazardous place possible in England, the London East End, the working class quarter, where the Leftists are strongest. But the British government decided that since political processions were now permitted, Moseley and his outfit should be allowed to have theirs - with full protection of the law.

Well, it turned out to be a strange and fearsome affair. The Mosley parade consisted of only ~~xxxx~~ a handful of British Fascists, but <sup>it</sup> ~~it~~ took hundreds of police, battalions of bobbies, to protect them. The marchers, the thin straggling string ~~xxxx~~ of them, were assailed by huge mobs which fought a violent battle with police. All along the route of march the leftists were swarming - then policemen were

injured, dozens of the rioters arrested. The Moseley demonstration seems to be a small thing to arouse such large disturbance. But the London police commissioner informs the home office that they simply haven't a big enough police force to guard another Fascist march in London. The even hand of British law is such, if one political organization is not allowed to ~~parade~~ parade, no other is allowed either - and so there is a ban on all political processions.

## FRANCE

Today's count of yesterday's election in France leaves the political lineup just about the same. The votes show General Charles DeGaulle to have the strongest political party but not as strong as the combination of moderate groups that now runs the Paris Government.<sup>IP</sup> The election was purely local, choosing members of what amount to country councils. But the figures do give a cross section of political opinion in France. The stake at issue was fifteen-hundred-and-eight council seats. A large number will still have to be decided by run-off elections. But, in the case of those that were decided - DeGaulle takes the largest number of ~~an~~ any party -- one-hundred-and-seventy-one.<sup>IP</sup>

~~The government coalition consists of four parties - and these, together, won three-hundred-and-thirty-four. One surprise is the poor showing of the Communists in these figures, the Reds taking only sixteen council seats. However, that is largely because they failed to win outright majorities. But they did run up a considerable popular~~<sup>vote.</sup>

~~With~~ With DeGaulle having the largest party, but with the government coalition having a much larger combined total than DeGaulle - the present regime in Paris is likely to continue right on. ~~The election in Paris is likely to continue right on.~~ The election gives ~~no~~ no sign of a sweep that might put ~~the~~ DeGaulle in control.

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Actually, the Communists got more votes than DeGaulle. They polled a total of twenty-seven percent.

## BERLIN

In Berlin financial fireworks. The Soviet mark took a plunge today with a collapse in value. This following action by the Western Powers, outlawing Soviet ~~mk~~ currency in the western sections of the German capital. <sup>†</sup> This is the latest in the battle of money that has been going on in Berlin for months. <sup>†</sup> The financial details are complex - but, in general, it has been a case of German-marks-backed-by-the-Western-Powers-versus-Russian-sponsored money. So long as the Soviet marks could buy things in the western sector, they kept their value in some degree. During the past few weeks the rate has been four-and-a-half Soviet Marks to one Western mark. <sup>†</sup> But now the Russian-sponsored money will only buy goods in the Soviet sector. And the result was immediately evident today. The Soviet mark plunged to ten to one. It was ~~estimated~~ estimated that in the Western Occupation Zones three hundred-million of the Russian sponsored marks had been circulated. They are now on their way out!

## TRUMAN

President Truman, in a letter to Republican Senator Watkins of Utah, hails the Atlantic Pact as a step toward permanent peace, and asks for prompt ratification by the Senate. Which seems likely to happen

The United Press reports thirty-two Senators as declaring they will vote to okay the treaty, while only two said they would oppose it.

But the approval is less unanimous in the case of the program to re-arm the Western Powers -- a sort of cold war lend-lease, which the North Atlantic Treaty requires. The Senators are demanding full information on that point, and will do plenty of debating before an arms program is okayed -- cold-war lend-lease.

Meanwhile the President asks for quick ratification.

BAKERSFIELD

Tonight I am in a city that claims to be ~~the~~ growing faster than any other in the country -- Bakersfield, California. <sup>R</sup> There seems to be some healthy competition for that honor. If I remember correctly Woodrow Wilson Todd, Chamber of Commerce official some miles north of here, told me the same thing about Fresno. And the other evening we had a similar story about Houston, Texas. At any rate, here in Bakersfield, the people of this community say their population has doubled in the last ten years; ~~and~~ <sup>well</sup> now ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> over the hundred thousand mark.

While there <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ economic <sup>groans coming from</sup> ~~uneasiness in~~ some parts of ~~the~~ our country this spring <sup>I hear</sup> ~~there seems~~ to ~~be~~ <sup>here</sup> none in Bakersfield. This city mainly depends on agriculture and oil. Both ~~are~~ booming.

Cotton is the big <sup>California</sup> ~~crop~~ <sup>today</sup>, which seems a little strange, ~~some~~. Because the last time I visited Bakersfield I can't recall that anyone had dreamed of growing cotton in this region.

Lo and Behold, today Cotton is California's

biggest crop; with this state right out in front as a cotton producer. All controlled scientifically. Only one grade of cotton permitted, by law, a uniform staple of great strength. It's production superbly controlled by dusting - low flying planes and helicopters.

No cotton mills here so far. But, the people of Bakersfield <sup>warn Elliott White Springs and others that</sup> say they'll have ~~them~~ before long. Business booming in Bakersfield, say the boosters in this lively town.

## RESCUE

Today witnessed a fine exploit of rescue in Tennessee. A long drawn out feat of life-saving, survivors brought out one at a time by helicopter from the wilderness of the Smoky Mountains.

Last Friday an airplane with five persons aboard, one a woman, ~~was~~ was forced down in the <sup>a region of</sup> great Smokies, ~~a~~ snowbound desolation. Some were injured. One man, however, was able to ~~set out for~~ ~~a long, desperate walk,~~ struggling<sup>e</sup> his way through snows and forest, ~~getting~~ back to civilization only yesterday - a two-day fight through the snowbound mountains. ~~He was~~ In a state of collapse and almost incoherent, ~~as~~ he ~~gave~~ gasped out the story of the four who still remained with the wreckage of the plane high in the ~~Sm~~ Smokies.

A rescue attempt by helicopter was made immediately, <sup>y</sup> yesterday afternoon. But it failed. A helicopter can land at almost anywhere - on a dime ~~and~~ as the saying goes. But, in that wilderness of woods and thickets there was not enough open

space, even for a helicopter. However, they did let down a physician, who descended a rope ladder, as the helicopter hovered - Dr. Robert Haralson of Maryville. He took care of the injured overnight.

Then the helicopter tried it all over again today - and succeeded. Because the men on the ground were able to ~~make~~ clear an open space in the thicket.

Down into this the contraption with the big whirling blades came slowly to earth and took aboard the *injured* pilot of the wrecked plane. ~~he has a broken leg.~~

The *more seriously* ~~worse~~ injured were taken out first and the job

continued one at a time - for a thrilling bit of rescue work in the Smoky Mountains.

## FOUNDOUR RESCUE

The latest tells how the survivors, all ~~xxxx~~ rescued, give the top credit to the woman among them - Mrs. Fred Hall. They say that during their sixty hour exposure to hunger and intense cold, the forty-year old wife of one member of the party kept them going by nursing the injured and by making a brave display of cheerfulness and good spirits.

The men said that, without Mrs. Hall "we would not have made it."

To which Mrs. Hall gives her explanation. "Well" says she, "I had to keep my spirits up for the sake of the men. I cheered them up. I changed their socks, and put on their shoes. I carried water up the steep mountainside. Somehow I kept them fairly comfortable. I couldn't let them know I was tired."

So there's the heroine of the adventure - and-ordeal in the Smoky Mountains.

## DOG

At San Diego, California, today, final military honors were paid - to Admiral Wags. He really was an Admiral - though a dog -; naval rank having been conferred on the Number One Canine Hero of the Fleet.

The pooch belonged to Admiral Frederic Sherman, and both ~~the~~ master and ~~the~~ dog went ~~thru~~ through the harrowing adventure of the sinking of the U S Aircraft Carrier Lexington in the battle of the Coral Sea. On that day of inferno the Admiral's dog was a figure of coolness and courage, as the ~~Lex~~ Lexington flamed and exploded. When the end came Admiral Sherman himself rescued the canine hero and the dog thereafter was an honored favorite of the Navy. Rank was bestowed on him and he became -- Admiral Wags. <sup>TR</sup> ~~But~~ the years crept on and now Admiral Wags at the age of Seventeen has been given a military funeral at the San Diego Naval Base.

SAILOR

The Navy is investigating as fantastic a story as the Navy has ever listened to. At Alameda, California today arrived a sailor, on record for two years as a deserter. In July Nineteen Forty-Seven he failed to report aboard his destroyer at San Remo, Italy. Then recently he appeared at Admiral Badger's flagship at Tsingtao, China. There he related his tale of strange adventure - shanghaied by the French Foreign Legion.

He says that At San Remo, on the Blue Mediterranean, he missed his ship, the destroyer Dixon, which left port without him. Whereupon the sailor, lost ashore, started walking. He crossed the border into France, and at Nice was picked up by military police - the police of the French Foreign Legion. They seized him in his Navy uniform, and put him into the ranks of the Legion as a private soldier. Which was an unceremonious kind of thing to do to an American sailor <sup>of</sup> U.S. Navy.

They sent him over to Africa where the

French Foreign Legion has made so much history in desert warfare. He didn't like it. He says that eighty-five percent of the legionnaires are German - the whole thing run on a Prussian, if not Nazi, basis. He claims that only about forty percent of the recruits are volunteers - sixty percent Spaniards.

Months after his own forcible induction, he was able to smuggle a letter out of a North African camp, a message to the American Consul at Casa Blanca. That should have got him out, but it didn't. Instead, <sup>he says</sup> the officers of the Foreign Legion decided to get rid of him - and they did it good and proper. They put him into a detachment bound for French Indo-China - to fight in the war against the Viet-nam Republic.

So presently, the American sailor was in battles and skirmishes of the Indo-China jungle. But only briefly. Still determined to get away, he deserted from the Foreign Legion, made his way into China. There the Chinese arrested him on the suspicion

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that he was a Communist. But he was able to persuade him that he was just a U S Navy sailor trying to rejoin his ship. Which led him finally to Admiral Badger's flagship at the North Chinese port of Tsingtao.

That's what the Navy is now investigating.

*With*  
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Sailor James Patrick Ryan of ~~Huntington~~ Huntingdon, Pennsylvania ~~is~~ on his way to the Navy hospital at Bethesda, Maryland, for a physical and mental examination - his story being that strange.

*And Ken, - what's your story?*