

P.J. - Sunoco. Thursday, Sept. 14, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY

Prime Minister Chamberlain made a solemn declaration in the House of Commons today--great Britain will never bomb women and children. The question came up---what about the official Berlin declaration that the Nazi war plane are now bombing unfortified towns that are not military objectives? Hitler in his war address made a pledge that this army would not air raid peaceful civilian places. The German claim now is that the civilian population in Poland is fighting the German invader to such an extent--sniping, guerrilla war fare--that no place can be considered undefended and peaceful. Germans everywhere are liable to attack by civilians--say the Germans. so they'll bomb everywhere.

In parliament today prime minister chamberlain declared that german air raids on civilians would only make great Britain the more determined to destroy Nazi power--would put more steel in the British will to win the war. Then he added this formal pledge, these words: "whatever ~~the~~ be the length to which others may go, Britain will never resort to deliberate attack on women, children and other civilians for the purpose of terrorism" A splendid pledge, splendidly spoken.

WAR

47
Today's tidings from Poland illustrates a point in the difficult art of trying to figure out the truth if any, in the war news. As usual the war bulletins are contradictory- only more so today than usual. There are two accounts, one German and ^{one} Polish, and they dispute each other in the widest possible fashion.

The German general staff reports swiftly advancing drives, these of a vitally strategic sort. (The Germans repeat that their armies have ^{now} completely surrounded Warsaw, and have sealed the gap of the huge western pocket which they encircled, a vast loop in which five Polish divisions, some sixty thousand troops, are desperately battling, trying to break out.) More than that--- the German army report tells of swift drives on the north and south, mechanized divisions smashing eastward, flanking the main Polish army on both sides, throwing another immense loop, that threatens to trap the greater bulk of Polish defense which lies along the Vistula river.

48
In the south the Germans stand before Lemberg, not so far from the border of Russia. ^{There} They are cutting the Polish line of supplies from, and the Polish line of retreat to, Rumania. The Berlin

2WAR

REPORT INDICATES THAT THE MAIN Polish army to escape

the encircling loop that is being flung by the fast-moving mechanized

forces, will have to beat a hasty retreat to the east or be destroyed.

And then the Germans have captured Gdynia the seaport the Poles built near Danzig. Isolated, it held out till today.
such is the news of Polish catastrophe which Berling gives us--

The continuing and overwhelming success of the Blitzkrieg, *Hitler's*
the lightning war.

TP From the Polish side we have an utterly opposite version. The
Polish dispatch admits that the German strategy was magnificent,

but says the tactics have turned out to be a blunder. Strategy,

meaning these flanking and circling drives. Tactics meaning---

the extreme use of mechanization, motorized attack. The *Polish dispatch*

S say that the attacking forces on wheels outran the German infantry.

The tanks armored cars, and tractor artillery *getting* ~~would get~~ so far

49 ahead *as to* ~~they~~ be left unsupported by the foot soldiers, with

rifles and machine guns. So, *would* ~~they~~ capture a lot of territory

without being able to hold it. Polish units, though completely

outflanked by the mechanized attachments, would break through---

because there was, no infantry line, no trench line, to stop

them. So Polish divisions were really not outflanked, not

encircled. *is* The claim is that the main Polish army now occupies

3 WAR

a powerful defence line, ^{and} will stand firm, not withstanding

the mechanized ²flanking business. The Polish report declares triumphantly

^{swift} that the war movement in Poland is over. It's all stabilized

now--for a long stand-still-struggle through the winter. ^{bitter Polish}

^{than that!}
You can hardly find two war reports more contradictory, What

^{well,} can we do about it? It happens that tonight we have another

analysis of the military situation in poland. It comes

from Paris---hardly pre-german. . French military experts writing

in paris newspapers concede that the German drives are continuing

swiftly. They declare that the Polish right wing, the northern

army, is retreating to the east. The front along the Vistula has

been broken. One paris newspaper puts it this drastically:---

"now there's no longer a front." It says there is fighting every-

where in the polish war zone---but no organized Polish battle

front. The French military analysis paints a sombre picture,

saying that the main polish army is being driven eastward into

---the pripet marshes. One remembers that name, Pripet

marshes, from world war dispatches. The Kaisers germans and

the Czar's Russians fought a desperate, dismal battle in that

vast region of Swamp land which lies along the Polish-Russian

4 WAR

border. It's an unending morass of gloomy, northern thickets.

If the Polish army has to take refuge in the pripet marshes, the Hitler mechanized troops will have plenty of trouble getting at them---but, the Poles will be isolated in the midst of no where.

It was raining heavily in Warsaw today. Raining throughout Poland---and we've been told repeatedly how much hope the Poles place in the ~~dewapour from the sky in the autumn~~ ⁱⁿ ~~autumn~~ ^{autumn} the ~~polish~~ rainy season. It remains to be seen how much the rain and mud will slow up the heavy mechanized units of the Germans.

It was also raining in France today---and here's one of those curious turns ^{that} come in the news. Today's war bulletin from the western front tells us that rain and mud have slowed up the French and British advance against the Siegfried line. The sodden state of sky and earth ^{have} put a stop to infantry activities. Only the artillery was carrying on in a large way, ^{the} ~~huge~~ booming of guns, with the germans in the Siegfried line laying down a heavy barrage. If later news indicates a flare of violent fighting on the Western ^(pick up letter B) Front near the border of Luxembourg.

RUSSIA

Today's most ominous event occurred not on the battlefield but in the realm of International politics. Soviet Russia *giving* gave a menacing hint that stalin might take part of Poland. *All* along the *question* *asked* ~~wonder~~ has been, what does the Red dictator stand to get out of his sudden and dramatic non-aggression pact with Hitler, virtually lining the communists up with the Nazis? Today's news from Moscow might possibly indicate the answer--that part of the Hitler-Stalin bargain was for Soviet-Russia to take the polish-Ukraine. *Which,* *definitely* ~~that~~ presumably would put the Red army in the European war on the side of the Germans.

There's enough of a threat in ^{it} all to give London and Paris the jitters, though both of these capitals are hinting at other meanings in the attitude of the Soviets. ^W Stalin stands as an enigma. No body can figure out with any plausibility what the red dictator is up to. One large factor is ---the Soviets are reported to be completely mobilized, *tonight,* in full war trim, on the Polish border. Four million men of the red army are ready there. ^W London and Paris say that this has Berlin worried. Some explain that the Soviets are troubled by the prospect of having Hitler's German army on the Polish-Russian border. This Moscow

believes will be a reality very soon.

So let's examine the bald fact that comes out of Russia, a rather startling article in the official Bolshevik newspaper - Pravda. And let's remember that what Moscow prints in that fashion emanates from the Kremlin, as a political move rather than mere journalism. Today's official Soviet editorial looks very much like a preparation for something -- preparing the ground. Stalin's Pravda makes the outright suggestion that two independent republics be set up and carved out of Polish territory. Two new nations created out of minority peoples in Poland, -- the Ukrainians and the White Russians. The Ukrainians inhabit Southern Poland. People called "White Russians" are in Eastern Poland. Pravda suggests that if a Ukrainian and a White Russian Republic were set up -- each would be allowed to decide whether it wanted to join Soviet Russia -- each as an autonomous nation within the Soviets. Let's remember that Stalin's Russia theoretically consists of a whole string of theoretically autonomous republics -- U.S.S.R. Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

The Moscow editorial makes a scathing attack on Poland --

denounces the way the Poles have treated their minority peoples. The population of Poland is about eighty million. Of which eight million are Ukrainians, and three million are White Russians, a total of eleven million of these twominorities. These have been deprived of their rights, so declares the Soviet editorial with a whole set of grievances. The Stalin indictment also denounces Poland for anti-semitic treatment of the Jews, the large Polish Jewish minority. The Soviet comrades ought to relay this anti-Jewish charge along to their buddies, the Hitler Nazis. Then I suppose the Nazis too would echo-- "These wicked anti-semitic poles. The Pravda article goes so far as to say that the Polish question of minorities has caused the Polish war defeat. It explains that the Hitler mechanized legions could nothave driven on so swiftly if it hadn't been for the discontent and anti-Polish feeling of the Ukranains and the White Russians.

Pravda, however, does not go so far as to include the Jews of Poland among the elements that have helped the Nazi armies.

BREMEN

Once more the mystery of the Bremen:

Where is that vanished German Queen of the Seas? The British admiralty to day said it knew nothing about the latest rumor-- that the Bremen has changed her nationality to ~~Sta~~ Italian and is steering for one of mussolini's ports. That report is current in Holland---that the missing liner, by some sort of transaction between Hitler and Mussolini, became Italian and neutral in mid-atlantic. The British admiralty says it doesn't know.

NATIONAL PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

Tonight I happen to be broadcasting from a banquet room, just off the famous Atlantic City boardwalk. My hosts are the members of the National Petroleum Association, the oldest trade association in the oil industry, made up of representatives of the refineries east of the Mississippi River, an association of which my radio sponsor is one of the oldest members. This is their Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting.

Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming spoke this afternoon and made an eloquent plea for more co-operation between government and business. He pointed dramatically to Europe with its war and bankruptcy which he said we must avoid.

AMERICAN SHIPS

R They'd better not torpedo any American ships--that was the gist of a statement made by the Acting Secretary of the Navy today. They'll be taking a long chance if they do. He was asked whether the navy had any plans to convoy vessels flying the American Flag in the war zone. The acting secretary, Charles Edison, said the navy department felt the safest way was to have U S ships properly marked, so there'd be no mistaking them. "If germany or some other power," says he, "wants to take a chance on torpedoing one of those ships, they're taking a long chance. " And he added: "We don't believe they will do it"

R Meanwhile secretary of state Hull was informing foreign powers that the United States will protect the rights of Americans under international law. ~~"The government of the United States has not abandoned any of its rights as a neutral," declared secretary Hull~~

NATIONAL PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

Tonight I happen to be broadcasting from a banquet room, just off the famous Atlantic City boardwalk. My hosts are the members of the National Petroleum Association, the oldest trade association in the oil industry, made up of representatives of the refineries east of the Mississippi River, an association of which my radio sponsor is one of the oldest members. This is their Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting.

Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming spoke this afternoon and made an eloquent plea for more co-operation between government and business. He pointed dramatically to Europe with its war and bankruptcy which he said we must avoid.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

War or no war, American Politics goes its predestined way. What American is there who hasn't heard the great question every four years -- who is to get the national convention?

Already this year San Francisco has put in a bid for next year, and to whom do the Golden Gate men appeal? Why, to Democratic National Committee Chairman and Postmaster General James A. Farley.

San Francisco wants the Nineteen-Forty convention to help keep the Golden Gate Exposition open for another year and offers to put up cash to get the big political circus --Three million dollars this year, the report is.

PRISONERS

Today at the Illinois State prison a captain of the guards saw three convicts getting over the wall with a crude ladder made of lumber and wire. Was he surprised; they were in easy view of a prison wall tower where armed guards were stationed with rifles just in case of such an attempt to get over the wall.

8 The tower guards should have been blazing away at the prison breakers. The captain yelled a call to them: "Hey! look! whats happening. " No response.

The captain, in desperation managed to get another party of guards, and they captured the three prisoners. When they went to the tower to see why the guards there were so lacking in vigilance , they found them fast asleep---and couldnt wake them up. "Drugged----they had been doped with heavy doses of sleeping powder.

8 1/2 So there's a bit of prison drama for you. How did the three convicts in their plot to escape, manage to drug the guards in the watch tower on the wall?

SQUADRON

A cable that just came in from Paris brings the news that Uncle Sam's European squadron sailed suddenly and unexpectedly today, from its base on the Mediterranean coast of France near Nice. Furthermore, the squadron, commanded by Admiral Charles Courtney, is bound for a destination that has not been made public. In other words, secret orders. The belief is that our European squadron is to be used to convoy American ships bringing American citizens home from Europe.

The secrecy that surrounds this naval move is somewhat baffling. Both the Navy Department and the State Department profess to know nothing whatsoever about the sudden order under which the European squadron sailed away from its base.

WASCOSTA

An American ship ~~was~~ stopped and searched in mid-ocean. The steamer WASCOSTA ~~was~~ on her way across the Atlantic. Thirty-eight miles off the Irish coast a German submarine appeared and started signalling in blinker code. The master of the WASCOSTA did not answer, whereupon the sub fired a shot across the bow of the American ship. A boarding party was sent aboard and the officer in command said to the master of the WASCOSTA:- "The next time you see a German submarine, you stop or you'll be shot at."

The ship was searched thoroughly, after which the passengers, twenty-four of them, were lined up on deck. The German officer commanding the boarding party then made a speech, apologized for the delay, and said:- "We didn't wish to go to war ~~with England~~ but we were forced to." He then shook hands with his interpreter and said he hoped to see him at a tea dance in New York.

Al Landon, ex-Governor of Kansas, ex-Republican candidate for the presidency, arrived in Washington today to attend that Neutrality conference at the White House.

To the reporters Governor Landon said:- "There is a definite conviction in my part of the country -- Kansas -- that we will not get into the war." Then he went on to say that it was his opinion that most people in the Middlewest were in favor of a cash-and-carry policy for munitions, simply prevent all ^{exports} ~~exports~~ from being sent to Europe in American ships. Alf Landon added that he hoped Congress would ^{remain} ~~remain~~ on the job as long as this present war lasts.

McNARY FOLLOW LONDON

Another Republican magnifico declared himself among those opposed to repealing the Neutrality Act. McNary of Oregon, minority leader in the Senate. Senator McNary said that as minority leader in the Senate, he agreed heartily that politics now goes out the window. His sole concern is to keep the country out of war. He feels this can best be accomplished by maintaining the present Neutrality Act. Any favoritism, direct or indirect, shown to any nation or group of nations, might involve us, said Senator McNary.

In this the minority leader is in disagreement with the second ranking Republican leader, Senator Austin of Vermont, who also wants peace, but believes the surest way to get it is to repeal the Neutrality Act. Let Japan buy from us, or France, or Russia, but let them take it home their own way.

COONLEY

There are some -- many perhaps -- who are under the impression that manufacturers are in favor of war because of the supposed profits they make. This was categorically denied some months ago by the National Association of Manufacturers; and now Howard Coonley, President of ^{the} ~~the~~ N.A.M. has re-stated this denial with the greatest emphasis. He declares that American industry ^{wants} ~~want~~ peace. In speaking not merely for himself but for ~~the~~ entire membership of the National Association of Manufacturers, he pointed out that free institutions are ~~xx~~ among the earliest victims of war, and that ~~xxx~~ ultimately no one can escape its ruin.

The President of the Manufacturers Association also ~~dx~~ declared that our greatest danger lies in the fatalistic and un-American attitude of some who say that war for us is inevitable. Coonley says that's absurd; the United States CAN stay out of war, and industrialists are going to do their part in seeing that we do.

He ^{also} ~~then~~ took up the question of prices and made it known that the National Association of Manufacturers has called upon all its members to guard against any price or profit policies not justified by actual cost and anticipated costs of replacement.^s Higher prices, he pointed out, do not necessarily mean greater profits. He also warned people against hoarding, ^{on the ground that} ~~because~~ hoarding by consumers always raises prices.

He concluded by repeating the statement:- "American industry says we can and must stay out of war."

CRISTOBAL

The United States delegation arrived today at Cristobal in the Panama Canal Zone, arrived there for the Pan-American meeting which is to begin shortly.

The American delegation is headed by Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles. As they reached the Canal Zone, the news became public that the government of the United States has agreed to permit fourteen American freighters to be transferred to the Brazilian flag. This is interpreted as a move to demonstrate the solidarity of the American republics.

BERGDOLL

Grover Cleveland Bergdoll lost out again today. His attorneys are ~~certainly~~ making a desperate fight to save him. They applied to the Federal Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. The lawyer who made the application was the same one who made a similar attempt twenty years ago. The result today was an echo of what happened in Nineteen Nineteen. The petition was denied, Grover Cleveland Bergdoll is remanded into custody of the military authorities and must stand ~~his~~ trial for desertion.

athletes. The Winter Olympics will probably be held in this country at Lake Placid.

OLYMPICS

74
There has been some talk of shifting the Nineteen Forty Olympic Games to this country. Actually, the place chosen for the meeting is Helsingfors, the capital of Finland. The gossip about shifting the games on account of the war has aroused the Finnish people. The Olympics Committee issued a statement that it is a mistake to believe the war makes it impossible to hold the ^{Summer} games in Finland. The Finns have no intention of giving up the privilege and are going ahead with their plans to entertain the world's athletes. The Winter Olympics will probably be held in this country, at Lake Placid.

KILLERS

The police of Quincy, Massachusetts, were put on the alert by an unusual number of hold-ups. Within two days, six of these crimes committed at the same identical spot in Quincy. Two masked bandits, at the point of a pistol, holding up passers-by. From one they got eleven cents, from another a nickel. Sixteen cents was the sum total of the fruits of these robberies. But the sixth hold-up was a different matter. The victim was a night-watchman returning home, a veteran of the World War. He resisted, and the bandits killed him.

Today the Quincy police made two arrests. Two sixteen year old boys. And later in the day the police captain of Quincy declared they had confessed. Each of them, however, denied having fired the fatal shot. Each blamed the actual killing on his pal.

HURRICANE

Three hundred and sixty-four days ago, the most savage hurricane ever seen north of the Caribbean swept over Long Island and New England. By way of celebrating the anniversary, an insurance company in Hartford has been gathering some figures, and it reports that the hurricane of September Twenty-First, Nineteen Thirty-Eight was the most expensive disaster that ever happened in America.

That will be news to a great many people; it was to me.

You may have thought that the Chicago fire took first place.

Two hundred people perished in that fire, and the damage to property was ^{around} two hundred million. ^{5 But the} ~~That~~ hurricane of last year

killed six hundred and eighty people and caused property damage of four hundred millions. The nearest approach to it was the

San Francisco fire of Nineteen Six, in which four hundred and fifty people perished and the property damage was three hundred and

fifty millions, fifty million dollars less than the New England hurricane. ¹⁶ But in point of people killed, the hurricane takes

second place. The ^{most appalling} ~~most lethal~~ disaster in ^{that respect in} American history was the

Galveston tornado and ~~skidxxx~~ flood, which killed six thousand.

FIELDS

W. C. Fields, the comedian, says he's a misjudged man. Referring to the rumor that he doesn't need make-up for that red nose, the nose he got when he was a two-quart-a-day man.

All that, says Bill, is nonsense. He said so in court today, where he is being sued by a physician for a twelve thousand dollar fee. Bill is fighting the suit because he thinks it's exorbitant. The doctor countered with the statement that one thing alone he did for Fields was worth twelve thousand dollars; he cut his liquor ration from two quarts a day to an ounce and a half.

Fields declares that he never was a two-quart-a-day man, that he has never been drunk in his life, and never drank the amount for which he gets credit.

Another hero with feet of clay -- or with a nose of -- well, let's see what's next.