

AIRPLANE

L.I. - Sunco. Wed., May 1, 1940.

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A German bomber was shot down on the English coast today and did more damage when it crashed to earth than it had in dropping its bombs. It happened over Clacton-on-Sea, a shore resort not far from London. The German bomber apparently was one of a squadron that was attacking a ship convoy off the coast. In the middle of the raid, anti-aircraft fire brought down one of the planes. It crashed right in the heart of the residential section, plowed through one apartment house, and tore through several smaller villas. Then it burst into flame^S, with one explosion after another, first the tanks, then the bombs blowing up. As far off as a mile away people were thrown to the ground by the concussion. On the spot itself, two of the residents of Clacton were killed as well as the airplane crew of four. But in addition to that, a hundred and sixty-two people were injured, fifty houses wrecked, some of them just smashed into piles of brick.

~~Good Evening, Everybody~~

If you have a map handy it might help as I give you the war news ~~highlights~~ *from Norway.*

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Tonight it appears that Hitler's armies are not yet in complete control of Central Norway. In contrast to yesterday's victorious claims from Berlin, tonight the Nazis are reported to have been forced out of two towns that they had seized; also to have retreated in the face of Norwegian troops; and to have gained no fresh ground north of Trondheim.

The dispatches from various points paint a picture different from that outlined in the triumphant crowings of ~~Enchire~~ Hitler yesterday. Southeast of Trondheim, the column that had occupied a place called Roeros, was driven out by Norwegian battalions. Also at Tynset. The Norwegians slipped into Roeros shortly before dawn and surprised the Germans in the darkness. A reliable correspondent reports that the Norwegians had with them a number of Swedish volunteers.

⊕ The recapture of Roeros is corroborated by the fact that the message

carrying the news was telephoned right from that town.

At Namsos, the Allies apparently are holding their ground. This is indicated by dispatches from American reporters who send us their press reports right from Namsos. They report that the Nazis made several terrific raids on Namsos, which caused a great deal of destruction. But the British and Norwegians are holding on although they are in desperate need of anti-aircraft guns. The German raiders tried to sink a British cruiser but the word is that she was not seriously damaged. They did wreck a British destroyer. London admits this.

The British War Office put out a conservative statement today, saying that the situation at Namsos is unchanged; and that the Allied forces at Narvik have extended their lines of operation. The communique then adds that in the Dombaas area, south of Trondheim, it reads this way:- "Our troops after stubborn resistance in the face of strong enemy attacks, withdrew to prepared positions."

It was also declared in London that the Allied position along that railroad south of Trondheim was dangerous and obscure. However, there is a report from Stockholm that the Norwegians have

recaptured Stoeren, ^{the} a railroad junction thirty-five miles south of Trondheim; ^{of which we have heard so much.} and a key position. The British have no confirmation of the German claim to have captured that railroad. Norwegian officers protest that the Nazi cries of triumph are exaggerated and premature.

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The latest from Berlin, on the other hand, is an announcement that Hitler's generals are moving along the railroad for an attack on Andalsnes, which has been one of the most important sea bases and landing ports for the British. It is quite vital to all the Allied positions south of Trondheim.

Here's another message from the Allied side; ~~of the~~ ~~fence.~~ Radio Stockholm broadcasts reports that the French, British and Norwegians around Dombaas, the key position of the railroad, have hurled the Germans back at a place called Ottå. The same broadcast described the railroad from Roeros to Stoeren as so badly damaged it could not be used by the Germans.

ITALY

The s potlight is one Mussolini. The Duce has the world guessing, and worried, Allies, and neutrals.

Well our envoy in Rome got some information today which somewhat relieves the tension. Ambassador Phillips called on the Duce and asked just what Italy is up to. After Phillips left the palace it was reported that the Duce told him he would do nothing sudden, would make no immediate unexpected change in Italy's attitude. In other words, we may perhaps take it that Mussolini is not yet ready to take his country into the war. Observers point out that Mussolini does not got back on any deliberate statements that he makes. At least he has not in the past.

Phillips's visit to the Venezia Palace followed a conference that Mussolini held with his council of ministers. When they adjourned it was announced that they would not meet again until June Fourth. Putting these two facts together, it appears reasonable to assume that for another month at least Italy will still be out of the war.

That ^{meeting of the} Council of Ministers was ^{partly} ~~obviously~~ prompted by the action of Great Britain, ordering her merchant shipping out of the Mediterranean. The Italian reaction to that is ~~a bit~~ surprising. One rather expected a chorus of crowing jubilation on the part of the Fascist spokesmen, a chorus ^{saying} ~~which might have~~ ~~said~~ in effect, "Aha, we've got them scared of us."

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But that was not the ^{emotion} ~~reaction~~ in Italy at all. Fascist mouthpieces expressed indignation. In fact they appeared to be offended, as though they had been insulted, or something.

Another interesting fact from Rome concerns the Vatican. Evidently, Mussolini is using his diplomatic skill to try to reconcile the Holy See with Germany. Italian Ambassador Attolico, who until this week was Mussolini's envoy to Berlin, is now

accredited to the Pontiff. While in Germany Attolico kept in constant touch with the Apostolic Envoy to Berlin. The immediate news today is that Attolico has started a series of conversations with the Vatican, with a view to bringing about better relations between the Pope and Hitler.

Incidentally, it was made known today that even if Italy gets into the war, there will never be any bombardment of Rome. Every belligerent government has promised that. And the reason is that if Rome were bombarded from the air, some bombs would be pretty sure to strike Vatican property which is scattered all over the City on the Seven Hills.

CHURCH

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—
Samuel Church of Pittsburg,
There's quite a to-do about [^] the man who offered a million

dollars for the capture of Adolf Hitler. Several Congressmen
applauded it, and one of them even suggested that the offer should
be doubled. On the other hand, Senator King of Utah, who has been
as vehement a critic of Hitler as anybody, pronounced the whole
thing ~~to be perfectly~~ ^{Which also is} stupid and silly. ~~And that was~~ [^] the gist
of what the Nazis ~~said~~ ^{are saying} about it. [^] A member of the embassy in
Washington, who wouldn't be quoted, said that the offer was a
month too late, should have been made on April First.

At the White House nobody would make any comment.

But officials of the State Department called emphatic attention
to President Roosevelt's Neutrality Proclamation of September Fifth
last, and hinted that this sort of thing is against the spirit of
the proclamation.

~~Samuel Harden~~ ^{Church}, who made the offer, ~~in a letter to~~
~~the NEW YORK TIMES~~, could not be reached today. ~~for any comment.~~
^{in Pittsburg,}
He is President of Carnegie Institute, which controls the Carnegie
Museum, Carnegie Music Hall, and the Carnegie Department of Fine Arts.

It was said in Pittsburgh that the million dollars had been

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subscribed by the Duquesne Club. Millionaire members of that club today were rushing into print with denials that they had any part in it.

NAVY

Ever since the last war there has been a long and fierce difference of opinion between aviation experts and big-shots of ~~the~~^{aw} Navy. The airplane men have been contending that battleships were becoming obsolete because they were so vulnerable to bombing from the air. The principal champion of this claim, ~~you may remember,~~ was the late General Billy Mitchell, once ~~second~~^{in command} ~~head~~^{head} of Uncle Sam's air force. General Mitchell made some experiments with ~~obsolete~~^{discarded} battleships, ~~and destroyed some of them,~~^{and} inflicted terrific damage ~~on others, in a test at sea.~~ But the Navy big-shots always discounted those experiments, said they were not fair tests, and that Billy Mitchell was a zealot and a fanatic.

An ocean of words has flowed under the bridge since then, and we've had live news from Europe about what airplane bombers can do to powerful men-o-war. So a statement by Charles Edison, Secretary of the Navy, today is of fascinating interest. It seems to show that the Navy men have a change of heart, for Secretary Edison admits that aircraft now have ^{the} temporary advantage over ships.

You will notice, he says "temporary", and he adds that "this

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advantage can be neutralized by improved armor and armament on the topside of the vessels."

Secretary Edison makes the admission that our ships were designed to meet weapons developed years ago, such as guns and torpedoes and not enough attention was paid to the designing of their popsides, which obviously was not needed at that time. Therefore, he says, he will not ask the present session of Congress for any extra money to increase the fleet, because, he explains, the engineers are at work making new plans which are not completed yet.

Nevertheless, Edison declares, "We have a splendid Navy, our ships are tough now, but they can be improved."

INTRO TO RANEE

One of the world's interesting personalities is sitting beside me tonight, a ruler of a country, a Queen. She is a charming white lady, but she and her husband rule over an oriental realm, on the far off romantic island of Borneo.

A hundred years ago an adventurous young Englishman named James Brooke, heard of a rebellion in Borneo. He was out there on his own sailing schooner. ^{Taking} ~~he took~~ his ship to Borneo, ^{he} went ashore with his crew, put down the rebellion, and the people made him their King, ^{Rajah} Brooke of the country of Sarawak.

Sitting beside me, dressed in Malay costume is the Ranee of Sarawak, wife of the third Rajah Brooke, ^Q vivacious and sparkling little lady is Her Highness, sitting here in her sarong, baju, and selayer embroidered in gold.

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clipper and fly to London to stay a while with her three daughters before returning to far off Borneo.

Rajah Brooke and his Ranee have been in the news recently. The Rajah had taken a young nephew out from England to groom him as his possible successor. But, he ^{now} told his nephew to vamoose from Borneo, told him that as a King he'll never do.

So, the succession may go to a young English nobleman, the Ranee's grandson, little six year old Simon, ~~XXXX~~ son of the Countess of Inchcape. The Countess herself spend^t a large part of her life in Sarawak where she learned to speak Malaya and is adored by the natives.

The Ranee of Sarawak is not only a Queen in Borneo. ^{She also} ~~But she~~ is a novelist. Her latest book was published today. The title of it? "A Star Fell." Sounds romantic, and it is.

Many years ago my travels around the world took me to Singapore, Malaya and the islands of the East. But alas, I missed Sarawak in Borneo.

FOR THE RANEE: We will be looking for you on your next trip around the world. Some of our most delightful guests have been Americans, Mr. Lowell Thomas. One of them was your old friend Richard Halliburton.

L.T.: That was when Dick Halliburton was flying around the world in his plane, the one he called "Flying Carpet", wasn't it?

FOR THE RANEE : Yes, and with him was a crack stunt pilot from Hollywood. And the two of them took me on the first airplane flights that I ~~have~~ made over my country. And, our three daughters adored flying with them.

L.T.: I remember telling Dick Halliburton when he came home that he ^{had} made a great mistake when he failed to win the hand of one of your beautiful daughters. To marry a white princess and then become a ruler in Porneo, ah that would have been a perfect climax to the Halliburton ~~career~~ ^{career along the Royal Road To Romance,} Instead, as you know he ~~was~~ lost at sea while attempting to sail a junk across the Pacific Ocean. And, I still

get letters from people asking if there isn't some possible chance that Dick Halliburton may still be alive, living on some uninhabited Pacific isle.

THE RANEE: Perhaps I know the reason for his strange death. In Borneo we have head-hunters - the Dyaks. And, they still cure and preserve human heads by smoking them. There is a curse on these heads, and we never touch them. Only two white men ever took one of these heads from Borneo. One was an English officer, aide de campe to my husband the Rajah. Shortly afterward -- he died, a raving maniac. Richard Halliburton against my wishes also took one of these heads from Borneo. And, he and his dragon headed Chinese junk went down in a typhoon, in mid-Pacific.

L.T.: It makes me shudder Your Highness. An interesting story! And, as I read your new novel "A Star Fell" I will think of you aboard the clipper, flying across the Atlantic, on the first leg of your return journey to far-off Borneo and I will hope that your star will continue to rise for many moons to come.

THE RANEE: (Sentence in Malay)

Which means I suppose - Where is Hugh James?