

C.J. - Sunoco. Friday, March 21, 1941.

A warm room jammed with skiers is liable to produce a few coughs. SKIERS are packed around me tonight, here in a quaint little room of an old-fashioned Vermont Inn, the Green Mountain Inn at Stowe, near the foot of Mt. Mansfield.

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Here beside me in addition to skiers sits ~~Erk~~ Craig Burt who is sometimes referred to as the Maharajah of Mt. Mansfield; famous ~~h~~ hunter, fisherman, and photographer of the out-of-doors, Vic Coty; George Morrill of The Lodge, the Gale Shaws whose fifteen and sixteen year old daughters are ski champions; Explorer Erling Strom; Austrian Ski Maestro Sepp Ruschp; Tommy Hitchcock who plays polo a little ~~bit~~ better than he skis and many others. *Skiers from far and wide, who drove here with the aid of A Sunoco.*

In the same room with me is the ~~next~~ Western Union wire over which U.P. dispatches have been coming in to me from all parts of the world. One of the most importance of these is of course from the Balkans.

JUGOSLAVIA

The definite word from Yugoslavia is that tonight the regent

Prince Paul accepted the resignation of three cabinet ministers.

They were Opposed to submission to Nazi Germany and resigned as a protest against the pact which Yugoslavia is prepared to sign.

They are Serbs, and represent the opposition of the Serbian element,

the most ~~XXXXXXXX~~ numerous in Yugoslavia. The principal advocates

of lining up with Germany are the Croats, second largest racial

group - they're predominant in the present government at Belgrade.

Some surmise is expressed that the resignation of the ministers,

the split in the cabinet, may delay the Yugoslavia signing. But

the general belief is that the thing will go through, and that

the premier and foreign minister will leave for Germany tomorrow

to sign on the dotted line. They say that Hitler is pressing the

Jugoslavs for quick action, has given them forty eight hours to

come into camp, because their ~~position~~ hesitation is holding up

the Nazi attack against Greece. We hear that as soon as the

Jugoslav thing is settled, the powerful blitzkrieg army in

Bulgaria will launch the drive for which it is fully prepared.

SEA

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London today identified the two German battle cruisers that are operating in the Atlantic. These are believed to be the powerful war vessels to which prime minister Churchill referred some days ago ^{when he} ~~He~~ said they were sinking freighters on the American side of the Atlantic. So what ships are they? London today answers - the Scharnhorst and the Gneisenau. Two Nazi sea monsters of the latest type - put into service in nineteen thirty eight. The battle cruisers' class which combines size, speed and gun power. They do twenty-seven knots or more and carry heavy batteries of eleven inch guns.

London comments that there are few ships in the British Navy that could match the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in either speed or gunpower. Only that newest British type of battleships would be up to it - the George the fifth. ~~It~~ It isn't known how many of these Britain has launched and completed, in addition to the George the Fifth ~~class~~ which brought Lord Halifax over here - when President Roosevelt went to meet him in a memorable ceremony of state.

In the Norwegian campaign of last spring, the Scharnhorst was reported to have been damaged in a fight with the British sea

giant renown. Later it was said that the Royal Air Force
had bombed the german battle cruiser several times, while it
was in drydock. ^{TP} The Gneisenau was reported to have been sunk in
the Norweigan campaign, but this was never verified. Now London
tells us that the two are not only ^{the} on rampage in the Atlantic,
but are responsible for the sinking of several ships ^{this week.} ~~last week.~~

^{TP} Berlin today claimed a succesful attack on a British Convoy off
the African coast. According to the German account, this was done
by submarines, and sixty nine thousand tons were sunk.

AIR RAIDS

Early reports from Britain tonight tell that as this evening came on, Nazi night raiders dropped bombs on a town on the Southeast coast. Nothing as yet to indicate any savage attack, such as was launched against Plymouth last night when King George and Queen Elizabeth had a narrow escape. They were in plymouth ~~and were~~ *just* ~~several hours~~ before the tons of bombs came raining down.

American born Lady Astor has ~~an~~ home at Plymouth. Her husband, ^{Lord} ~~there~~ *Astor* is Lord Mayor of the ~~town~~ ^{city.} *Lady Astor herself* spent last night fighting fire, helping to extinguish the incendiary bombs that fell on her home.

DEFENSE

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The House of Representatives today passed a four billion dollar defense bill. It's the army share of the series of huge defense appropriations. Four billion dollars to build a great air fleet, and to create a highly mechanized army that eventually is to consist of four million men. ^HIn the hearings on the bill, Chief of Staff General Marshall stated that the army is to have eight tank divisions like the German Panzer Divisions which crushed the Allies in Flanders last June. He said the army has recently received exact data on how the Nazi armored units accomplished that exploit of war, and lessons learned are now being applied. So, we're to have eight of those armored divisions.

^HA sub-committee of the appropriations committee of the Senate today approved the seven billion dollars for aid to Britain - okayed the proposal ~~WEXER~~ without change. In the sub-committee only one effort was made to effect an alteration. Senator Nye of North Dakota proposed to cut the seven billions in half, but that was turned down. The Senator says he's going to continue to press the suggestion - put up three and a half billion for lend-lease instead of seven.

At the same time it's indicated that Britain is soon to get fifty

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merchant ships from the United States. They say that the British
have asked for fifty as their first requirements. Most all the
vessels they're to get, it seems, are over-age ships which date
back to the last war - old-timers ^{hurriedly} ~~that have been~~ reconditioned.

LABOR

They've settled that strike at Wright's Field, the labor trouble which caused so much remark and reproof. This afternoon the strike leader^s announced^{that} the men would go back to work tomorrow and resume ~~the~~ construction of military aviation products at the field. For example, the wind tunnel, which has been talked about so much. ^R The A F of L men are calling off their strike at the request of its assistant secretary of war ^{- doing it} in the interest of National Defense. ^{And -} The four C I O electricians will stay on the job. It was their presence which caused the A F of L Building men to walk out. One of those jurisdictional strikes, a fight between two unions.

^{tonight} It looks[^] as if the danger of a ^{general} strike at the Ford Motor Company has been eliminated. A walk-out there would have tied up a hundred and fifty four million dollars worth of defense contracts. The automobile union was angry because there was a dismissal of a thousand workers. The claim was that they had been let out because of union activities. Now, the Ford Company has made a concession and reinstated ^{one} these thousand workers. So announces Federal Labor Conciliator James Dewey, who says that the strike danger at the Ford plant seems to be a thing of the past.

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Today an employee group and a union signed an agreement prohibiting strikes and lock-outs on defense projects. Parties to the compact are the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America and the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers. The terms are that once work on a defense project has begun, no labor dispute will be allowed to stop it. This, they say, is the first instance of a no-strike agreement in the realm of National Defense.

STRIKE

The New York Bus strike was settled today, when thirty five hundred drivers ratified an agreement. They return to work tomorrow.

The differences between the company and the union are to be arbitrated. So ends an eleven day walkout which put to inconvenience

nearly a million bus riders. — including some of the young ladies in my office.

STLAWRENCE

There are lively indications of congressional opposition to the St Lawrence waterway project. President Roosevelt today submitted to Congress the new St Lawrence agreement between the United States and Canada. The document is ample and complicated, and provides that in paying for the project, the United States shall foot by far the larger part of the bill. The total cost is two hundred and sixty million dollars. Canada to pay sixty million. The United States to chip in with two hundred and six million. Of this last figure ninety million will probably be marked down for New York State to pay. Albany will be asked to finance various power developments in the program.

The receipt of the message from the President brought instant comment from Senators who have been fighting the St Lawrence idea all the way along. Senator Connolly of Texas said he was against it when it first came up in nineteen thirty four, and he's going to fight it once again. Senator Adams of Colorado echoed that he was against it then and he's against it now. The midwestern attitude is expressed by Senator Clark of Missouri; *who said: -* "I don't see how the Mississippi valley will benefit in any way." *said*

CRASH

At Hempstead, Long Island, an Army air plane crashed today in a thrilling episode of narrow escape. First of all, the pilot had a narrow escape, Lieutenant Craven Rogers. The Lieutenant is a crack flyer, aid to Brigadier-General MacDonald of the seventh pursuit wing at Mitchel Field. The plane was a swift army pursuit plane. High above the town of Hempstead, it went out of control for some reason or other, and took a dive straight to the ground. Lieutenant Rogers resorted to his parachute, bailed out. He got clear of the falling sky craft, and went floating to earth. His landing was not exactly perfect, ^{for} he came down in a tree. There, with a wrenched arm and shoulder, he hung until they got him down.

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The plane fell straight toward a house in South Hempstead, the home of William Kain. In the dwelling were Mr and Mrs Kain, sixty years old. They had narrow escapes, and so did two children playing in the vacant lot next door. The crashing plane just missed the house. The windows ^{of the house were actually} ~~were~~ smashed from the violence ^{nearby} of the impact. The motor buried itself six feet in the earth. The gas tanks exploded with a roar of flame, so near one corner of the house that its two sides were scorched by the heat.

The two children playing nearby were in peril of the flying
pieces of steel and shooting flames. They ~~howled their heads~~ *cried hysterically,*
and were ~~off~~ badly frightened - but unharmed.

PRISONER.

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The Georgia chain gang is a thing of forbidding reputation, and should excite fear and apprehension. This however, is not the case with a negro youth named Morris Jones. He escaped from the New Jersey State Reformatory, and made his way to Georgia. There the local police picked him up, and New Jersey wants him back. All of which sounds like a reversal of the familiar story of the fugitive from a Georgia chain gang, ^{the} ~~that~~ ^{that} case has produced headlines from time to time, the chain gang convict making an escape, getting away to the north, writing a successful book about it, and putting the story into a motion picture feature. All of which sensationalized the hardships and brutalities of a Georgia chain gang. ^H Only the other week, governor Edison of New Jersey refused the extradition demand of the Governor of Georgia - the demand that the fugitive be returned to serve out ~~his~~ his chain gang sentence. So now what about the fugitive from a New Jersey reformatory who has been picked up in Georgia. The nineteen year old negro youth, morris Jones, begged the Georgia police not to send him back to New Jersey. He said he escaped - because the reformatory was too tough. If he had to serve out his sentence, he implored, he'd rather do it in Georgia,

PRISONER.

in the chain gang.

The New Jersey extradition request for the fugitive is rather mild and inconclusive. The ^{New} Jersey authorities asked the Georgia police to instruct the nineteen year old negro to return.

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"Instruct" - that's the word used. There wasn't anybody available to send down to Georgia and bring the fugitive back. The Georgia police acceded to the letter of the demand. They instructed the negro youth to return to New Jersey, and turned him loose. When last seen, he had got himself a job in a Georgia Fertilizer Plant and was working there. So apparently the instructions didn't take. He still prefers the chain gang - if necessary.

LEGION

In New York on Army day, April fifth, there'll be a big parade - but the American Legion won't be in it. Which certainly will be unusual for Army day. Every year, since the end of the World War, the Legion has been a dominant factor in every parade celebrating a military occasion. In fact, the Legion usually was the parade. So what has happened now in New York?

It only goes to show how time passes and glory fades. The sponsors of the Army day pageant invited the American Legion to take part, but asked the Legionnaires not to take up too much room. They'd be allowed a hundred and eighty yards, in the miles and miles of parade. It was explained to the Legion that the bulk of the marchers would be rookies from nearby training centers - the draftees of nineteen forty one. Also a display of motorized equipment, seven hundred and fifty mechanized units the like of which the dough boys never saw in the World War. So there wouldn't be so much room for the American Legion.

The Legionnaires are indignant, and today they turned down the invitation altogether. If they're to be shut ^{limited} ~~in~~ to so small a space, they won't march at all. The New York department commander writes to the Brigadier - General in charge of the

Army day celebration as follows: "You are serving notice on these young men marching in the Army of the future," says he, "that a memory of sacrifice and contribution to the perpetuation of a nation will be limited to not more than twenty three years."

- The Romans had a phrase for it; "Sic transit gloria mundi."

Yes a phrase that many of us should bear in mind:- "Sic transit glorio mundi."

And now I'll switch back from the nows of Mt. Mansfield and let Hugh say so long for me.