

L.J. - Sunco. Friday, April 7, 1939.

LEAD

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

~~There's a late report that the Albanian government has turned ~~it~~ down a new Italian ultimatum, but that King Zog has responded with counter-proposal to Mussolini~~

*a last minute*

There's <sup>^</sup> report that the Italians and Albanians are

holding a conference in the city of Durazzo tonight -- trying to

work out a settlement and end ~~the~~ <sup>that</sup> miniature war. They say

that King Zog today rejected an Italian ultimatum but responded with

counter-proposals to Mussolini. <sup>whereupon</sup> ~~The~~ <sup>^</sup> Italians accepted these

counter-proposals as a basis for discussion, and the discussion is ~~on~~ <sup>on</sup>.

~~now going on~~ <sup>^</sup> Such is the rumor -- ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> the Italian <sup>s</sup> move to take

possession of the little kingdom. They encountered plenty of resistance

today, which is not surprising when you consider the background of

the Albanians.

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 1939.

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:~~

For many a long century, the Albanians have been famous as stern and hardy fighting men. They <sup>are</sup> fierce mountaineers, of tribal clans <sup>in a land of</sup> ~~and~~ relentless blood feuds. A lingering <sup>ing</sup> remnant of the ancient Illyrian race ~~which~~ that once occupied all the Balkans. <sup>Illyrians</sup> They provided hard marching, hard fighting legionaries <sup>s</sup> for the Roman Empire - and, they provided emperors too. There was a whole succession of Illyrian emperors, soldier-emperors in the Third Century A.D. Time came when the Slavic people swarmed down into the Balkans, and the ancient Illyrian race was able to hold out only in the mountain fastness <sup>of what is</sup> now called Albania. There they retained their wild independence down through the centuries - retained it even against the Ottoman Turks. "Sons of the Eagles" <sup>called</sup> they ~~will~~ themselves; <sup>and they always have</sup> ~~and~~ defended their eagle nests among craggy peaks. Their national hero - Skanderbeg, who fought ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Janizaries of the Sultan. <sup>s</sup> Fierce battles for freedom, those Albanians fought, and today they put up a fierce <sup>Good Friday</sup> battle against

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the invading cohorts sent by Mussolini.

Yes, fierce enough - but (today's miniature war <sup>must</sup> ~~could~~ have been little more than skirmishing. King Zog's entire army numbers only about twelve thousand men, with a dozen pieces of ~~still those~~ artillery.) ~~The~~ Albanian mountaineers have their rifles and they know how to shoot. - ~~But~~ they can do little more than snipe against regular troops.

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(The main focus of resistance was at Durazzo, Albania's number one seaport. Late dispatches give a detailed story of the fighting. The Italians landed ~~in~~ a hundred soldiers on a beach near the city) - this quite peaceably. Albanian military guards challenged them and asked them what they wanted. The commander of the Italian detachment replied that they intended to take possession of Durazzo - whereupon the Albanians opened fire. The report says that fifty to a hundred Italians were hit, killed or wounded, in the surprise burst of shooting. The remainder fled to their boats. <sup>Then</sup> ~~and so~~ the battle was on.

Other landing parties got ashore, and made good their hold on a strip of beach. From that point they advanced. Their attacks

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were repelled several times, but (they were supported by the guns of warships, and bombing <sup>by</sup> ~~by~~ ~~war~~ planes. <sup>There could be little</sup> ~~And there was no possible~~ doubt about the result. <sup>Durrizzo</sup> ~~They~~ captured <sup>Then the</sup> ~~Durrizzo and~~ Italian columns marched inland toward Tirana, the Albanian capital, twenty miles away. At last reports the invaders had advanced nine miles and were within eleven miles of King Zog's ~~residence~~ seat of government. But Tirana seems to be that monarch's seat of government no longer. A late dispatch from Rome declares that the Albanian government has left Tirana and has taken refuge in a mountain town called El Bassoni.

Previous to that, Zog sent his Queen, Germaine, and their new born son to Greece for safety. And today the Albanian Minister in Washington spoke scathingly of the Italian lack of chivalry. "Just when our Queen gave birth to a child, the Italians dealt this blow," said he indignantly. "They should have at least waited a few weeks."

~~The Durrizzo attack was only one of many.~~ Tonight, Mussolini's men are in possession of the entire Albanian coast -

they've seized one seaport after another, taking virtually every Albanian harbor that amounts to anything. And at various places they're pushing inland from the coast.

Apparently, Mussolini is all set for a complete military occupation of the country. ~~xx~~ It is reported that sixty thousand troops will be sent to Albania, and an aircraft carrier is transporting two hundred and fifty light tanks, the kind adapted to meet guerrilla warfare in mountainous country.

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~~Meanwhile, negotiations are still going on with the Italian fighting their way into Albania, King Zog sent a new set of proposals to Rome, and last reports Mussolini was~~  
~~claiming that~~ The sudden outbreak of military action today was the result of abrupt diplomatic events last night; while Rome was reporting that an agreement with Albania was likely to be made quickly, Mussolini got word that King Zog was mobilizing his tiny army. That provoked an instant Italian ultimatum. This King Zog rejected, and the invasion promptly began, ~~whereupon King Zog has countered with some new proposals.~~

It is apparent that Fascist Italy intends to impose a protectorate on Albania very much the same as Nazi Germany did with Czechoslovakia. Comment from Rome is that Italy would prefer to do this with King Zog still retaining his throne. However, the status of that throne seems exceedingly doubtful tonight.

The international aspect of today's miniature war seems to be ~~entirely quiet~~ <sup>this: -</sup> Hitler's Germany issued a summary statement

declaring that the Nazi Reich was backing up the Fascist Duce

a hundred per cent in the Albanian ~~venture~~ <sup>adventure.</sup> ~~And~~ Rome sent

reassurances to Albania's exceedingly interested neighbor,

Jugoslavia - assurances that today's military measures were only

provisional, and would be discontinued as soon as King Zog has

yielded. Similar explanations were made to the British government -

and to American Ambassador Phillips who called at the Italian

Foreign Office today. There are statements in London that the

attack on Albania violates the British-Italian pact of friendship,

according to which the status quo is to be maintained in the

Mediterranean - <sup>the</sup> state of affairs not to be changed <sup>along those</sup> ~~in the~~

<sup>coasts.</sup>

~~Mediterranean world.~~ But, there's no indication that Great Britain

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intends to do anything about Mussolini's plan to ~~draw~~ turn Albania into an Italian protectorate.

From Washington comes a report that we may protest to Rome, charging violation of the Kellogg Pact. Remember it?

GERMANY

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Mysterious troop movements are reported in Germany - soldiers, artillery and tanks being shifted for some purpose or other. It reminds one of the equally puzzling troop movements in Italy, of which we heard vague reports, just before the present Albanian fracas broke out, ~~and explained them~~. Hitler's officials declare today's German troop movements were only routine, just concerned with regular manoeuvres. But the rest of the world looks on in nervous wonderment, and asks - "What does it really mean?"



ENGLAND

Here's news - a good word about Great Britain's airplane production. We've heard so much pessimism about the slowness of British airplane construction that it's a novelty to hear that His Majesty's air corps is forging rapidly ahead. This is told us by Quentin Reynolds who was sent to England by COLLIER'S to get some ideas about British sky strength. <sup>Quent</sup> Reynolds declares that the London government right now has four thousand first line fighting planes, and that production on five or six thousand more ~~are~~ is progressing at a fast clip. So that Britain will have something like ten thousand first line fighting planes before very long.

SPAIN

( Spain today formally lined up with Germany, Italy and Japan -- in the anti-Communist alliance. ) The Franco government is now a full-fledged member of that alliance directed against the Red Comintern -- though many suspect that it's more for mutual aggrandizement than for battle against the Reds. The official Franco announcement says that Communism having been conquered in Spain, the Spanish government is adhering to the anti-Comintern pact -- thereby continuing its fight against the Reds.

The fact remains that the anti-Comintern line-up is now, Italy, Germany, Japan and Spain -- with one of them on the southern frontier of France. And that can be highly significant in turmoil to come.

AROUND THE HORN

American warships are about to set sail on a voyage of adventure, romance and good will. Cruiser Division Seven, Uncle Sam's three newest heavy cruisers: The San Francisco, the Quincy, and the Tuscaloosa, are scheduled to show off from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, tomorrow. This will be the first U.S. fleet-unit to round Cape Horn -- "double the Cape," as they call it, since the building of the Panama Canal.

In command of these heavy cruisers is Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel on the Flagship San Francisco. First stop Venezuela. Then down the East Coast past the mouth of the Amazon, across the Equator, and on to Rio.

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These heavy cruisers travel at ~~tremendous~~ <sup>great</sup> speed. I have just been talking to <sup>Rear</sup> Admiral <sup>William H.</sup> Standley, <sup>Retered,</sup> who tells me they have a speed of more than thirty knots.

The purpose of the cruise is to present Uncle Sam's ~~own~~ compliments to our neighbors in South America, and the ~~itinerary~~ itinerary includes nearly all the countries ~~of~~ that vast continent. From the Cape and the Straits of

Magellan the homeward voyage will be up the West coast,  
through the Panama Canal, and then back to Hampton Roads,  
to rejoin the Atlantic fleet.

PENDERGAST

A ~~big~~ political sensation broke in Kansas City today -- with the indictment of Thomas J. Pendergast, the Kansas City Democratic political boss, whose renown is national. ~~He is~~ Accused of income tax evasion.

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For years Tom Pendergast has been the dominant political force at Kansas City. He built up a ~~Democratic~~ <sup>big</sup> *lucal* political machine of invincible power -- a machine that controlled everything. The very name of Pendergast has been a symbol of the power a boss can achieve in machine politics. And because of his predominance in Missouri affairs, he has been a force always to be reckoned with in the Democratic Party -- a national figure. Tonight this mighty chieftain is under indictment, must face trial, and with him, indicted on a similar charge is a <sup>former</sup> Missouri insurance commissioner. In fact, the whole thing has to do with insurance.

There's been an investigation of a complicated affair concerning premiums and funds -- an insurance rate settlement. The investigation has been trying to find out what happened to some four ~~thousand~~ hundred and forty-seven thousand dollars. Out of the quiz has proceeded the income tax indictment.

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The charge is that in 1935 political chieftain Pendergast declared a gross income of fifty-eight thousand seven-hundred and fifty dollars, whereas the figure should have been one hundred fifteen thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars. He left out fifty-five thousand, <sup>50</sup>~~dollars~~ says the accusation. He paid income tax amounting to four hundred and sixty-four dollars and eighty-nine cents, whereas he should have paid more than fifteen thousand dollars. That's one charge -- and there's another.

This relates that in ~~making~~ making his income declaration for 1936, Pendergast reported a gross of more than one hundred and seventeen thousand dollars. The prosecution contends the sum should have been three hundred and seventy-seven thousand <sup>odd.</sup> ~~dollars~~ ~~two hundred and sixty thousand dollars left out.~~ <sup>T</sup> Whatever <sup>the</sup> ~~three~~ merits of the case may be it does seem vividly apparent that politics can be a lucrative profession. And it's apparent likewise that the indictment <sup>†</sup> of the Democratic leader of one of the most powerful political machines in this country is of much political consequence.

## BANDIT

At St. Louis the police are looking for a widow - a pretty blond girl of eighteen, who was always armed with a pistol and is of a kind to shoot it out. She was widowed last night when federal agents killed Benny Dickson, the gangster desperado. He was wanted for a whole string of bank robberies, and in these his bandit helper was his eighteen year old wife - the beautiful blond gun-woman.

But there's another woman - they call her "the woman in black." The story is that Dickson was put on the spot by a woman dressed in black. He was sitting at a hamburger stand when a mysterious woman in sombre clothes put the finger on him - guided the federal agents who were on the trail. Dickson had two pistols and a hunting knife on him, and he had a reputation for fast work with a gun. But the federal agents beat him to the draw, and Benny Dickson, robber of banks, was extinguished in a blaze of gunfire.

Today the police were looking for the young widow. They want her for participating in a South Dakota bank robbery, and they say the eighteen year old gun-toting blonde is as tough as a customer as her husband ever was.

DEANNA DURBIN

~~There are~~ <sup>! About</sup> Rumors of romance ~~and~~ Deanna Durbin, the ~~young star~~ <sup>Mamma,</sup> But the romance is denied by Deanna's ~~mother~~ <sup>Some</sup> are saying that the girl ~~is~~ <sup>star</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>ginger</sup> of the screen might elope with Vaughn Paul, the young Assistant Director. "Ridiculous," says Deanna's mother, with maternal emphasis. "Deanna is much too young for marriage", ~~Mrs. Ada Durbin proclaimed today. "Nothing~~ ~~could be more ridiculous."~~ <sup>still -</sup> Deanna isn't eighteen yet, ~~although~~ girls have been known to marry at seventeen. However, being under age, the Hollywood star cannot figure as a bride in a wedding without her mother's consent.

<sup>m</sup> Mama explains the romantic rumors by saying that Deanna had merely gone to a couple of dances and a football game with Vaughn ~~Paul~~ <sup>— only that and nothing more.</sup> ~~nothing more to it than that.~~



WEATHER

Spring, beautiful spring, is not behaving her charming self way down south in Dixie. <sup>At Easter</sup> This time of the year the breezes should blow with <sup>the</sup> balmy fragrance of budding flowers <sup>way</sup> down there in the deep South. Instead, a cold snap is reported on the Gulf coast today, a stormy cold snap with chilly gales. And - those usual windy terrors, tornadoes. A twister hit the little town of Shaw in Louisiana. It demolished the schoolhouse and dozens of dwellings. The tornado did its worst as it blasted through rows of tenement houses occupied by negro workers.

Fifty ~~was~~ injuries reported.

At Stephens, Arkansas, the tornado blasted right through the business section of the town. It demolished a dozen stores and four houses.

Everywhere in Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi, trees were uprooted and the roofs blown off houses - ~~the~~ spring,

supposedly beautiful spring, ~~was~~ in an ugly temper, down there, but elsewhere it looks ideal for the ladies and their new pie-plate bonnets, and a-l-a-Monday.

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