

L.Y. - Lunoco. Monday, May 19, 1941.

ETHIOPIA

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For something like three weeks we've been hearing reports that the Duke of Aosta, Italian Commander-in-Chief in Ethiopia, had surrendered with his army. All those reports were premature, But at last it's true, [^]officially admitted in Rome. Here's the telegram that the Duke sent by radio to ~~Duce~~ Mussolini. It reads:-

"Owing to the impossibility of aiding the wounded and resisting much longer, I was compelled to request of the British terms for an honorable surrender. My request has been accepted." And the Duke concludes that "it is a comfort to know that we've done everything humanly possible."

To which the Duce replied:- "You and your soldiers have fought heroically, resisting beyond human endurance. The Italian people admire your stand."

It was at Amba Alagi, that the Duke of Aosta, with thirty-five thousand men, resisted for forty days. Of the thirty-five thousand, seven thousand were Italians, the rest native Askaris. The Italians were literally exhausted with fatigue and hunger. In the last few days they were fighting with home-made hand grenades.

The Duke was allowed to be the last to leave Amba Alagi. His

staff as well as ^{Assta will hand their swords} ~~himself will not finally surrender until~~
~~tomorrow~~ ^{to the British, tomorrow.}

The principal benefit of this to the British forces,
is that it will release some highly ~~useful~~, seasoned and able
troops for ~~use in~~ more important theatres of war - Iraq for
instance, or Libya. Ethiopia was captured mostly by South
Africans, hard-bitten, well acclimatized fighters.

Empire

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IRAQ

That Iraq business remains baffling and critical. The latest claim of the Baghdad radio is that a column of Iraqi fighters dashed over the border into Transjordan. It was led by General Fauzi Kaukji, who has earned quite a little reputation in those parts as a guerrilla leader. It isn't his first fight with the British as he has been the leader of raids in Palestine for several years. The latest advices, coming from Budapest, are that Kaukji penetrated a hundred and seventy miles into Transjordan, the desert part.

The pro-Nazi Iraqi forces are being steadily reenforced by Hitler and Mussolini. Several of the Italian and German planes that have been flown to Baghdad by way of Syria were transport ships. And the British continue to attack the big airdromes in Syria. This extracted an impassioned protest from General Dentz, the French High Commissioner in Syria who seems now to be acting for Hitler. He threatens to use French troops against the British if these raids on the airfields are kept up. He called those raids criminal aggressions and declares that the whole population of Levant is ready to oppose force with force. But whether those really are

French words or Nazi words we don't know.

That declaration by General Dentz apparently didn't go down so well in Turkey. The Turkish press described the pronouncement of the French High Commissioner in Syria as a complete failure. The Turks declare that the entry of German planes has now left the way open for complete occupation of Syria and even for the use of French troops against the British.

In Berlin it was declared that an official communication would probably be issued tomorrow to explain the new accord between Germany and France. The Nazi spokesman said it was not only possible but probable, that the French would act against the British attacks on Syrian air bases.

Admiral Darlan, the French Vice-Premier, is in Paris again, to resume his talks with Hitler's men. One of the first results of the French agreement to cooperate will be the release of a hundred thousand French war prisoners, soldiers who fought in the last World War as well as this. It is observed that the Nazis are not letting any young Frenchmen go back to their own country. The explanation is that they are deliberately acting to keep down the population of France as much as they can.

FRANCE FOLLOW IRAQ

Here's another step in the movement to acquire French islands for Uncle Sam. A bill was introduced in Congress today, instructing the Secretary of State to negotiate for the acquisition of Martinique, ^{Guadaloupe,} St. Pierre and Miquelon, Clipperton Island in the Pacific, and the Province of French Guiana. The bill also covers "such ships, airplanes and cargoes ^{as} ~~that~~ the French Government may care to sell."

^e That bill was not offered by, ~~an administration~~ Congressman but by ^a Republican, Representative Case of South Dakota. Case would have us ~~buy them~~ pay the French out of the two billion dollars stabilization fund which is at the disposal of the President. But there would be a good deal of opposition to that. ⁵⁻¹⁰ Some would be sure to ~~Most people would~~ say that the price for those islands could be written off against the French debt.

There's a lot of talk going around, to the effect that we are on the verge of breaking with the Vichy Government and ^{on the} verge of recognizing ^{acknowledging} General Charles deGaulle. But, the latest I have from ^{sources} Washington is that this talk gets no encouragement in official circles. Responsible members of the government do not expect any such break at this time.

But here is official news about the French Government.

Vichy has protested the placing of Coast Guard details aboard the

French vessels in our harbors. That ^{French news incidentally} ~~news~~ comes by way of Berlin;

which is a sad note. Official French news ^{— from Berlin,} ~~coming by way of the~~

~~Nazi capital;~~

ZAMZAM

The sinking of the liner ZAMZAM brings to mind a similar sinking in Nineteen Seventeen. The steamer SUSSEX, torpedoed in the English Channel - also with Americans aboard. A sinking that led directly to our entrance into the war of twenty-four years ago.

The case of the ZAMZAM, on the face of it, sounds more aggravating. The SUSSEX was a British steamer. The ZAMZAM flew a neutral flag, that of Egypt. What's more, she went down in the South Atlantic. The estimate of the number of Americans lost aboard her varies from a hundred to two hundred. Most of the passengers thus bravely bagged by the Nazis were missionaries, their wives and children, as well as twenty-four volunteer ambulance drivers.

Naturally, the episode has raised the temperature in Washington. There is no official comment so far. Also our consul in Cairo says he has no information about it.

One thing that perturbs members of our Government is that the ZAMZAM was sent to the bottom on a southern traffic lane which was considered safe for neutrals. Whether she was sunk by submarine, surface raider or a mine we don't know. All we do know is that

she was sunk by submarine, surface raider or a mine we don't know. All we do know is that London reports it was enemy action, and that the ZAMZAM has been missing a whole month.

That south Atlantic route is the one American freighters will take when carrying supplies from the United States to the Red Sea and Suez. This is the first time since the war began that so many American lives have been lost at one time.

PHILIPPINES

Goods from America have been leaking to the Axis powers through the Philippines. That fact became definite and official today when a bill was put through the House to stop it. It's a bill to bring our Far-Pacific islands and all other outlying territories belonging to Uncle Sam under government export license control. The bill was pushed through the House by Congressman May of Kentucky, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, who told the Representatives that it was extremely urgent and that it had the sanction of the War Department, the State Department, as well as the approval of the Government of the Philippine Commonwealth.

JAPAN

There was quite a bit of gossip today about a visit our Ambassador Joseph Grew, in Tokyo, paid to the Japanese Foreign Minister, Matsuoka. But at present we are not to know what it was about. Some wondered whether it had anything to do with the rumor that our Government was to be invited to negotiate ^{peace} between Japan and China. But Washington observers all say no to that.

FALANGE

There's a Nazi agent in every Spanish legation and consulate throughout the Americas. That we hear from a Spanish Grandee, the Marquis de Aguiar, who is a registered foreign agent, representing the royalist party of the Spanish Catholics in the United States. He says these Nazis have wormed their way into the Spanish legations and consulates in the guise of Falangists. Falangist being Spanish for Nazi. All taking orders direct from Berlin, says the Spanish Marquis. He also offers corroboration for the story that the German Panzer divisions, which drove the British out of Libya, got there through Spain -- and then Tunis. The Marquis declares further that ever since November, Hitler has had twelve divisions in Spain ready to move on Morroco when he gives the word. Germany, he said, futher, ~~xx~~ has complered a bloodless invasion of Spain. And that now there are Nazi forces in the Canary Islands and in all the Spanish lands in Africa.

WHEAT

Another member of Mr. Roosevelt's Cabinet made himself heard today about the Nazis. Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, spoke to the country at large from Hutchinson, Kansas. The Nazis, he said, are deliberately trying to form a combination of nations to attack us. And, he added, the answer to any dictatorship combination would ^{have to} be something that the Nazis would understand ^{(--- meaning) see.} -armed might. Wickard didn't mention the word "convoys", but he said we should see that the goods get there.

The object of Wickard's broadcast, of course, was to counteract the isolation ⁱⁿ of the Middlewest where his voice might carry considerable weight. He talked not in ^{the} a vein of being pro-British, but ^{he} repeated the argument that the British Isles and the British Navy are our first line of defense.

^{He said he} He wanted to talk particularly to ~~wheat~~ wheat farmers, ^{who he said are} They're going to have to decide quickly, ~~he said,~~ what they're going to do about wheat, particularly the quotas which have to be settled by May Twenty-First. ^{also} He read a message from the President, and said he had talked to Mr. Roosevelt only a few hours before he left

Washington. The President wants the basic crops to reach parity this year. Grow wheat to help the democracies, was the plea of the Secretary of Agriculture.

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ROOSEVELT

Another message ^{coming} from the President, ^{-- to} ~~a message to~~

Congress. This we hear from Senator Barkley, the Democratic leader.

Mr. Roosevelt today had his first conference ^{in 3 weeks with heads} ~~with the tycoons~~ of

^{And} Congress. ~~in three weeks~~. Apparently he threw out a hint that he was

^{communication to the Capitol.} about to send another ~~message~~. Senator Barkley didn't profess to

know what it was going to be about. The presumption in Washington

^{is} ~~was~~ that it ^{will} ~~would~~ be another step in the program ^{to} ~~helping~~ the

British, ~~and putting the rein on the Axis powers.~~

^{- Stan}
Congressman Ham Fish of New York said he had heard

that Mr. Roosevelt's message would be a proclamation of full

emergency. Fish is going to make a speech in the House asking

what on earth would be the difference between a full emergency

and the emergency proclamation that the President issued back in

September, Nineteen Thirty-Nine. He said further that he's going

to challenge the President's right to throw the United States into

^{Congressman}
an undeclared war. ^{And} Fish used these words:- "There is

considerable difference between an expedition against the Barbary

Pirates and war against the biggest portion of the world."

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PLANE CRASH

An accident in the army air force. Six of Uncle Sam's light bombers took off from the base at Savannah, Georgia, bound for Langley Field, Virginia. While the squadron was in formation ^{flying} flight over ~~Rains~~ in South Carolina, two of the planes collided. ~~They crashed immediately, and~~ Four flyers met their death, two of ~~them~~ Second Lieutenants, one a Sergeant, one a Corporal. One of the Lieutenants tried to bail out in a parachute, but, he waited too long.

COAL

It's welcome news; that the hard coal strike is over,
almost as soon as it began. John L. Lewis, as President of the
United Mine Workers of America, ^{has} ordered the men ^{to return} ~~back~~ to work
tomorrow. The union and the operators have come to a tentative
agreement. The miners ^{to} get a raise in pay of seven and a half
per cent, ^{beginning as of} ~~which works backwards to~~ May First. ^{Then -} ~~On~~ October First
that will be raised further to ten per cent. The men also ^{to} get
vacation ^{on full pay!} ~~pay thrown in~~. The first time the hard coal miners have
won a raise in pay in eighteen years; ^{so the item}
tells us.

DROUGHT

The continued dry weather ^{bring} threatens to bring another menace to people in the eastern states. There's ^{may} likely to be a shortage of water, even drinking water. In some parts of the east, we are below the proper average to the extent of as much as five to six inches of rain. ^{fall.} And that, on top of two light snowfalls in the winter, threatens to make the situation serious. The first warning comes from the Health Department of the State of New York.

WASHINGTON

~~Here are some reflections after a trip to~~ ^{The} Washington.

The hotel situation ~~which~~ has been much talked about. Washington is a crowded place these days, with ~~all that~~ ^{so much} official business in full swing. ~~And~~ ^{Also} three hundred thousand tourists came to see the cherry blossoms. All of which led to widespread stories that there was no hotel space in Washington. I asked Harry Somerville, Manager of the New Willard, about that. He ~~told~~ ^{tells} me the story of ~~the~~ Washington hotels being overcrowded ~~was~~ an illusion - that there ~~had~~ ³ been a sharp decline in the number of hotel guests since the First of May. Furthermore, a further decline of between fifteen and twenty per cent is expected by the First of July - because summer always decreases the number of people in Washington. So, if you're thinking of filling your car with Blue Sunoco and taking a trip to the national capital - you'll find plenty of hotel accomodation.

At the Federal Bureau of Investigation I was told some striking things about the F.B.I., labors in the prevention of sabotage - checking the Fifth Column. During Nineteen Forty, J. Edgar Hoover's Bureau has held conferences with four hundred and fifty American citizens, conferences with local police officers. The

purpose - the protection of defense industries. More than seven thousand police executives talked things over with the F.B.I. experts.

That was for Nineteen Forty. So how about Nineteen Forty-One?

In the first three months of this year, similar conferences were attended by more than eight thousand officials representing forty-three hundred law enforcement agencies.

That's an example of the huge amount of work done by the F.B.I. - national defense on the inside.

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9/4 And now some inside news about your car.