

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The latest from Rumania tells of street fighting between the Iron Guards and troops of the government. The report, which contains a good deal of detail, is from Budapest. There's nothing direct from Rumania.

We haven't anything really certain on developments in that trouble-torn country. You can get almost any kind of explanation you like, each Balkan capital reporting the sort of news that fits its own fancy. The Balkans right now are one huge rumor factory.

All that we really know is that an important German officer, Major Doering, was assassinated in Bucharest. One version is that he was killed by Iron Guard elements who resent German domination. Berlin today blames it on -- the Greeks. They say that the Bucharest government has rounded up the Greeks in Rumania, and blame the shooting specifically on a man described as a prize-fighter. Berlin claims that this Greek was incited by the British secret service. The Nazis like to blame things on the British Secret Service.

## LIBYA

In North Africa, the siege of Tobruk has begun. That Italian stronghold on the coast of Libya. It's much the same sort of place as Bardia, which the British captured some while ago -- after a siege. Tobruk is a good deal further into Libya than Bardia, and there the Italian plan seems to be to make a defense as long as the fortress can hold out. British opinion is that it's not as strong as Bardia and won't hold out as long.

It appears that there will be no attempt to relieve the place because British patrols are reported to be pushing far beyond Tobruk. They have found an important Italian air base evacuated. British headquarters at Cairo thinks that the Italian plan is to make its main defense in the Benghazi area, in about the middle of the Libyan coast.

Here's the latest:- The British have penetrated the defenses of Tobruk to a depth of five miles.

In East Africa, the British are reported to be pushing into Ethiopia, making deep advances. Prime Minister Churchill in the House of Commons today stated that the East African campaign would be pushed with continuing vigor. He denied a previous story

that the British had offered the Italians facilities for getting their women and children out of Ethiopia. This because of a revolt among the natives - a ferocious revolt. Winston Churchill said that any such proposal for the evacuation of women and children would have to come from the Italians.

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BRITISH LABOR

Great Britain today took one of the most drastic steps possible in a democratic nation - the drafting of labor. Every person of working age is to be registered. And the Government will put into essential war employment all whom the government may see fit. People now employed in what are considered non-essential occupations will be transferred to industries producing war material. Most of such transfers will be voluntary, they say. But compulsion will be used if necessary. Moreover, the Government will draft into service many women who ordinarily would not be employed. They are needed to take the places of men who are put to heavier tasks.

This plan to draft British labor was announced in the House of Commons today by the Labor Minister, Ernest Bevin. He stated that the British production of war planes, ships and munitions is increasing rapidly, but he added these words:-

"Although much is being and will be achieved by voluntary means," said he, "we have now reached the stage when it will be necessary to have industrial registration by age groups - and by this means to make a list of people who shall be called upon to serve the state in national industry."

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BRITISH COMMUNISTS.

Britain today struck its first blow against the British Communist Party; ~~It is~~ suppressing two Red publications, one - the "London Daily Worker"; the other - ~~xxxxxxx~~ a new<sup>5</sup> letter called "The Week." The Ministry of Home Security accuses the two ~~publications~~ in these words - "systematic publication of matter calculated to foment opposition to the prosecution of the war to a successful issue." The "London Daily Worker" has been advocating immediate peace with Nazi Germany.

Today's suppression ~~of the Communist publications~~ follows action by the British Labor<sup>r</sup> Party, which repudiated any connection with the Labor group that is demanding a negotiated peace. (Recently, an organization called "The Peoples Convention", issued a demand that the war be ended. The Labor Party now officially disowns that Left Wing group.)

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The Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives had a star witness today, Joseph B. Kennedy, retiring American Ambassador to London. The main line of his testimony followed his radio address on Saturday night -- but with implications and new ideas. <sup>Kennedy</sup> ~~He~~ expressed his opposition <sup>of to</sup> the Lend-Lease Bill, with the enormous powers it would confer upon the President. "I am against the bill in its present form", said he. He explained that he was one hundred percent in favor of Aid To Britain, and that to provide the British with the armament they need, Congress must surrender some of its power. <sup>He went to say that</sup> ~~To~~ get the job done a large measure of authority must be vested in the president -- but not to the extent that is provided in the Bill for All Out Aid. The retiring Ambassador thought there should be a time limit to the bill and that Congress should keep a check-and-control on the money spent to aid Britain.

<sup>Ambass - Kennedy</sup>  
~~The Committee~~ <sup>^</sup> came forward with this idea -- that it might be well to set up a Supreme Defense Commission consisting of the president and a few leaders of Congress. Then the tremendous power would not be concentrated in the White House, but would be

shared by a small group, in which Congress would be represented.

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The suggestion along this <sup>same</sup> line was made today by Republican Governor Staasen of Minnesota. <sup>Gov. Staasen</sup> He proposed that the immense aid to Britain authority should be vested in a council consisting of the President and the leaders in the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Republicans as well as the Democratic leaders.

This notion was taken to the President <sup>at</sup> ~~in~~ his press conference today, and he suggested that the newspapermen should look up the constitution. He indicated that the Supreme Council idea would be unconstitutional. <sup>Retiring Ambassador</sup> <sup>VOE</sup> Kennedy was asked whether he thought the convoying of British merchant ships by American war vessels would be an act of war. He said yes, he thought it would. He repeated his contention that we should stay out of the war, said he was convinced that President Roosevelt wants to stay out. He proclaimed complete confidence in the abilities and the intentions of the President.

Joseph B. Kennedy made one very interesting observation. He was asked whether the British wanted us to go into the war. He replied that opinion was divided in London. American entrance

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into the war would be of great moral affect, expecially in the Balkan areas. But some British officials believe that if we went in, they might actually get less war materials. *So he said.*

*Kennedy*  
He was asked about the present crisis for Britain that is much talked about -- the Supreme Test in sixty or ninety days.

*His answer was that*  
He ~~said~~ Britain has been in a crisis all along and he couldn't see why things should be in a s tate much more critical right now.

Kennedy rather gave the impression that he thought the British

were getting along *rather* ~~pretty~~ well. He pointed to their victories against the Italians in Africa, though he ~~admitted that the shipping situation was pretty bad.~~ He thought Britain would be in

desperate need of ships if the sinkings went on at the rate of some weeks ago. U-boat destructions *has* ~~have~~ been cut down considerably

in recent weeks. *R* Here we may ~~take~~ take a look at figures given

out in London today. They show that during the past week some thirty thousand tons were sunk, which is less than half the

average during the past year. It is interesting too to ~~note~~ *read*

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Berlin reports today. They tell of British merchant vessels bombed by war planes, which makes it look as if the Nazis were swinging more and more toward air attacks on British ships.



SWASTIKA

The United States is observing all the formal courtesies toward Nazi Germany in the Swastika incident in San Francisco. Today a naval officer in full dress uniform called upon the German Consul, Captain Fritz ~~Widemann~~ Weidemann. The naval officer conveyed to the consul~~an~~ an invitation to attend the inquiry into the case of the two sailors who ripped down the Swastika flag that flew from the consulate flag pole. Weidemann did not indicate whether he would attend.

The two gobs, Harold Sturtevant and E.G. Lackey, having pleaded guilty to a charge of malicious mischief, are in the brig - awaiting sentence. (They're to be punished by the civil courts and then the navy will impose its own discipline.)

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In Washington, Secretary of State Hull today made public the exchange of diplomatic notes in the affair. The German Charge d'Affairs delivered a protest against the tearing down of the Swastika. To this the State Department replied in the following terms:; "I hasten to express the regret of the Government of the United States at such an incident," wrote Secretary Hull, "and, it requested that the appropriate agencies of this government should

make an immediate investigation.- "after which I shall communicate with you again," *the Sec. concluded.*

There's no love for the Swastika in this nation, but the diplomatic courtesies are being scrupulously preserved.

## MANEUVERS

The war in the air was transferred today to our own northeastern states - make-believe, however. Air defense maneuvers. The army began its four-day sham battle of the sky - flights of attacking bombers and swarms of intercepting fighter planes.

The key to beating off the bombers was a task of spotting them, detecting and reporting the approach of the raiders of the sky. All of the most modern equipment was employed. Also - that most primitive of equipment - human eyes and ears. Ten thousand civilian spotters cooperated in the solving of the military problem. They ranged all the way from factory workers to society debutantes. Emily Saltonstall, daughter of the Governor of Massachusetts, did her bit. Most interesting of all was the use of blind persons. It is a well known idea that <sup>those</sup> ~~persons~~ who lack the sight of eyes, may have an unusual development in the hearing of ears - abnormally sensitive to sound.

The army recruited a number of blind from the Perkins Institute and put them in key positions to listen for planes.

The supervisor of the group was Paul Giuliana, a blind musician.

He's <sup>the</sup> organist ~~at~~ a Methodist Church in Boston. <sup>Also</sup> He's a practiced

spotter of planes, has made a hobby of it. He can tell the difference between the sound of several single motored planes flying in formation and the noise made by a bomber with several motors. He can even gage the approximate height of planes and can tell whether they are above or below clouds. A

All day long the news flashed reports of the practice air battles. Five formations of bombers struck toward industrial centers in New England and New York but were beaten off by fast Curtiss pursuit planes.

The bombers were tricky, however. One group of air raiders evaded the defense and bombed cities in western Massachusetts, like Springfield. Tonight Springfield is a second Coventry -- theoretically.

Altogether, the defense worked well -- though there was some trouble when civilian spotters reported the wrong planes. The greenhorns mistook commercial transports for bombers, and gave false alarms.

SHIP

Today Coast Guard vessels were searching off the bleak wind-swept shore of Massachusetts, driving through the icy blast. They were looking for survivors of a fishing boat, but it seemed a hopeless quest.

The story of the trawler, MARY E. O'HARA, is one of those bitter tragedies of <sup>the</sup> a fishing fleet. There's heroism among the men who put out into the gales of winter to cast their nets, and risk the doom of the sea. The MARY E. O'HARA took a heavy catch of fish off George Bank. She was heavily laden with that cargo of the sea, and her deck and rigging were thick with ice. - We've all seen pictures of winter fishing boats encrusted with an icy covering.

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This morning, on her way back to port, the MARY E. O'HARA struck a derelict, a sunken barge. The impact smashed her bow, and she began to fill rapidly - sinking. She had the regular equipment of lifeboats, but they were of no use. The masses of ice on deck and rigging were so thick and heavy, the lifeboats could not be launched. So the crew did the only thing possible. They drove their foundering craft to shallow waters nearby - to Finn's Ledge. There the fishing boat sank. The depth of the water was such that only the tops of her

masts and rigging remained above the water. Some of her crew of eighteen were lost at once. Others climbed up into the rigging

and hung on <sup>in</sup> ~~with~~ the lash of the sea and the bitter cold.

Only five were left <sup>when</sup> ~~and~~ during the day they were <sup>sighted</sup> ~~sighted~~ by another

fishing boat. There was a brave rescue, as the on-coming vessel

maneuvered so near the men clinging to the rigging that it was

possible to haul four of them aboard. The fifth fell into the

water, but the rescue ship put out a small boat and picked him up

too.

The five fishermen were taken to a hospital, and Coast Guard

boats put out in the hope of finding other survivors of the

shipwreck.

MARRIAGE

Down Argentine way they have those romantic customs.

You know, senor, how they sing serenades beneath the lady's window - sentimental songs to the lovely senorita. Sometimes there is a serenade for a pair of newlyweds - that is so romantic. What could be more soulful than a party of friends singing ballads for a couple of honeymooners?

At Buenos Aires last night they sang ballads in such style that the police had to interfere. A huge crowd gathered before the house of the two that had just been married. The mob sang and cheered and made remark<sup>s</sup>. The bridegroom was Rofolfo Casco, a young fellow well known in Buenos Aires for his good looks - he's twenty-two, a perfect Adonis. The bride was Senorita Torres. The age of the Senorita is - seventy. In ~~xxxx~~ love's mysterious way, a romance blossomed between the twenty-two year old Beau Brummel of Buenos Aires and the aged Senorita<sup>of the Tampus.</sup> That miracle of the heart quite inevitably produced a sensation down romantic Argentine way. So half the town turned out to give them a salutation on their wedding night. The singing of love songs was so noisy and vociferous, that the ~~xxx~~ cops had to chase the crowd.

And now with a split second to go here's Senor Hush chasing me.

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