

GREECE

P.Y. - Sunoco. Thurs, Oct. 31, 1940.

46
The Italian high command reports tonight that its forces are closing in on the important Greek City of Janina. That represents a thirty mile advance. The Greeks themselves tell ~~of success in the fighting~~ of Italian attacks repelled, ~~the Greeks~~ making counter-attacks. The Athens bulletin gives the place of this military action as near Janina. So it's clear that the Italians have got that far. They claim they'll take the town within a few hours, and then aim to seize important islands along the coast.

47
That area in western Greece is ancient Epirus, kingdom of the far-famed Pyrrhus who invaded Italy, struck at Rome, and won Pyrrhic victories! Historical ground - this scene of the latest flurry of the European war.

This newest extension of war, however, continues to be a minor sort of affair - or so it seems. No huge military move. And this rather fits in with persistent stories that the Italians and Germans hope to accomplish their ends in Greece without much fighting. The story is that they are trying to cause an overthrow of the government at Athens, and put in a regime favorable to the

plans of the Axis. King George must go and so must strong man General Metaxas -- such is the Italian-German demand. Along the line of what we heard last night - Prince Paul being the man whom the Nazis and Fascists want to govern Greece.

Athens ridicules all reports that Greece may yield and obey Rome and Berlin.

There's one London supposition that Mussolini's latest aggression may be more or less unintentional -- a bluff that didn't work out. The Italians expected a show of force would bring the Greeks to terms. But it didn't happen that way. So no, having started military action, they've got to go ahead with it --
advancing and taking Kastoria!

RUSSIA

Another report of Soviet intervention against the Axis powers - and another denial. The rumor was that Red army planes had arrived in Greece to help in the fight against Italy. The denial comes straight from Moscow. The official Soviet news agency makes the following declaration:- "The report is throughout the fantasy of its authors, and does not correspondent with the facts to any extent whatever."

FRANCE

The world has been wondering - what's the agreement between Petain's government of France and Hitler's Germany? ~~An agreement was announced, but the terms~~ ^{were} ~~will not be made public.~~ Today Vice-Premier Laval of France made a statement on the subject, a statement not at all illuminating. ~~(In fact, it~~ ^{obscures} ~~clarifies more than it clears up.)~~ ~~He said negotiations were still going on, and spoke of collaboration between Germany and France.~~ He expressed himself in these rather cryptic words:- "In all fields," said Laval, "but especially in the economic and colonial fields, we have planned and continue to examine - what practical form of collaboration can best serve the interests of France, Germany and Europe." He made a further ⁿ remark about this economic and colonial collaboration and used these words - "It excludes all ideas of aggression."

What all that means is ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a puzzle, but the surmise was raised that Germany might get some colonial possessions from France. In Africa, for example. On the Atlantic, perhaps - Nazi bases on the Atlantic. Laval refused ^d to elucidate on that point, and the Franco-German agreement is as mysterious as ever.

stet }

49

~~49~~

GIBRALTAR

There's an unconfirmed story in Spain about an Italian submarine getting into the British harbor at Gibraltar, and firing a torpedo. The exploit is described as one of great daring, a Fascist undersea craft making its way into the harbor of the naval base, where powerful warships were at anchor. However daring the exploit may have been, it was quite unsuccessful, according to the story from Spain. The submarine fired a torpedo, which hit a torpedo net, and exploded - damaging nothing but the net.

BOMBING

The bombing of Britain went on in desultory fashion today. The Germans claim they bombed London heavily and started big fires. The British minimize the amount of air raid activity and say the bombers were turned away from the capital. Berlin declares that the dive bombers scored a terrific hit on a British store of munitions, and blew up a dump of high explosive and a munitions train.

The R.A.F. reports bombing the German naval base at Emden.

ENLISTMENTS

I have a letter here from the War Department, a letter containing a reminder ^{that} ~~which~~ I'd like to pass along. Army enlistments have been ^{moving} ~~going along~~ in great style, but there's one kind of enlistment of which the general public is not sufficiently aware. Major General Adams, the Adjutant General, writes that the army wants especially to let young men know about the Air Corps Reserve. The War Department has doubled its program for training reserve pilots, a class taken in every five weeks. Each class has ^{room for 2400} ~~twenty-four~~ flying cadets. These cadets have a thorough schooling as pilots, and when they graduate they're commissioned as lieutenants in the Air Corps Reserve. This is one of the most attractive things the Army has to offer to ~~xxx~~ air-minded young men.

I have likewise a communication from the Marine Corps, which tells of an Officers Training Class scheduled to begin at Quantico on November Tenth. Any young man who is a college graduate will have a chance to qualify as a Reserve Officer of the Marines. You can get three months of grade A training at Quantico, and then a reserve officer's commission. So there is a tempting opportunity for young college men whose fancy may run toward soldiering in the Marines. *Future Smedley Butlers.*

CONSCRIPTION

The man in Michigan who was going to test the legality of the draft drawing, has changed his mind. He has dropped his plan to go to court and enter suit against the government for assigning to him the draft number he got. This - on account of mistakes in the drawing. He stated today:- "My sole purpose was to be helpful, not to hinder. ^{Then he added: -} "I want to cooperate with the draft," ^{said he} ~~he went on~~ "I believe it was illegal" because six numbers were missing from the goldfish bowl."

52
He concludes by saying that if the government does not want to test the legality of the drawing, he won't go ahead with his plan for a lawsuit. He is married and has ^{two} ~~two~~ dependent children, and probably wouldn't be called anyway. So he wasn't trying to get out of the draft, he argues. He merely wanted to be helpful.

BROWDER

An order of deportation was issued today against the wife of the Communist candidate for the presidency - Earl Browder. She's a Russian whom Browder married in Moscow in Nineteen Twenty-Six. The charge is that she is an alien whose stay in the United States is illegal. She appealed to Attorney General Jackson. The Attorney General has the right to suspend deportation proceedings in certain cases - cases involving economic or family reasons. There are family reasons concerning the wife of the Communist candidate. The Browders have three children. However, the law does not permit any exception in the case of any person who advocates the overthrow of the United States Government - and Communists are placed in that category. The Attorney General said today:- "Mrs. Browder's evasive testimony regarding her relationship with the Communist Party had created doubt as to her eligibility for leniency."

In her testimony, styled "evasive", she stated she did not belong to any political party. She was asked whether she subscribed to the aims of the Communist Party in the United States,

53
and replied in these words:- "I never gave it any thought." This from the wife of the Number One bolshevik in the country ~~xxxx~~ was hardly satisfactory, and today Attorney General Jackson ordered that she be deported.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt made a striking observation today while dedicating a new health center near Washington. On previous occasions the President pointed out how aviation has cut down distances ~~so~~^{so} important ~~as it was~~ with reference to war. Today he spoke of the significance of this with respect to - health. "We are," said he, "less than a day by plane from the jungle-type yellow fever of South America, less than two days from the sleeping sickness of equatorial Africa, less than three days from cholera and bubonic plague." Then he pointed the moral in these words:- "The ramparts we watch must be civilian in addition to military." In other words - we must beware of epidemics as well as bombs.

WILLKIE

54

One interesting point about the presidential campaign right now is this: President Roosevelt, in making his ~~fifth~~ five eleventh-hour campaign speeches, delivers an address at night. Willkie is out battling day and night. ^QAnd so the next day, he gives his reply. And that becomes afternoon news. Today, for example, the Republican candidate blasted with a series of answers to last night's Rooseveltian oration. Willkie, who is whirlwinding in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, took a crack at the President's declaration about twelve thousand more American planes for the British. F.D.R. said the British had asked for the aircraft, and that he had passed the request along to the Defense Committee, for sympathetic consideration. The British to have priority over our own national defense program - they to get the planes first.

What did Willkie have to say to that? Willkie said that if he were elected, a mere twelve thousand planes wouldn't even be news. He'd step up production so much that a hundred planes would be built where one is being constructed now. Willkie stressed the productive capacity of American industry, and argued that he would be a lot more likely to get production going

than Franklin D. Roosevelt.

ES
Willkie likewise took a fling at the President's attacks last night against Republican Campaign Manager Joe Martin. He asked the nation to choose between Campaign Managers Joe Martin of Massachusetts and Ed Flynn of the Bronx. ^{And he} ~~he~~ referred to the presidential barrage fired last night against Representative Bruce Barton of New York.)

All of which recalls that in his previous campaign speech, the President poured opprobrium upon Representative Hamilton Fish, Senator Vandenberg and Republican Vice-Presidential Candidate Senator McNary. Everybody, in fact, but Willkie. Today the Republican candidate told how he listened to his opponent last night and he added: "For the life of me I could not understand whether he was running against Bruce Barton for United States Senator in New York, or against Joe Martin for Representative ⁱⁿ ~~from~~ Massachusetts." And then Wendell Willkie added this wistful comment: "Up to date, he doesn't mention my name." Well, that does seem like an omission. But then there is still another omission. ~~There is~~ To date the President has not mentioned - third term.

56

Willkie's final fling was a bitter one - referring to two words the President used last night. Speaking of Joe Kennedy, F.D.R. called him, "My ambassador." Willkie implied that this form of speech sounded dictatorial, if not royal and imperial. "My ambassador", quote he. "If you elect me president of the United States, they will be your ambassadors," he promised.

ONION

The onion that was tossed at President Roosevelt in New York several days ago, was explained today, ~~and~~ The story at the time involved a couple of Italian girls and quoted them as saying the onion tossing was justified, that it was on the order of the eggs and other missiles that have been hurled at Willkie.

Today, however, the two Italian girls were in court, and they gave a different version. The damsel who flung the tearful vegetable stated that she really meant to throw some torn-up paper in honor of the President, on the order of confetti.

But somehow the onion got mixed in with the paper. So it was all a mistake, and it should be a warning to all of us -

— or a brick —
don't get an onion mixed up with the confetti.

57

NEGRO

In
~~At~~ New York, the District Attorney's office today ordered an investigation of the row between Presidential Secretary Steve Early ^{*of Virginia*} and the negro policeman, James Sloan. District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey asks the New York Police Commissioner for a full report concerning the incident - in which the White House Secretary is said to have kicked the negro patrolman. Or was it - the knee? Tom Dewey of course is a leading Republican campaigning for Willkie. As District Attorney, it is in his province to investigate any violation of the law. Making it an interesting situation - especially if ^{*there*} ~~it~~ happened to be a Dewey prosecution of the President's Secretary for kicking ^{*the*} ~~a~~ negro policeman.

58

With all this, comes a report that the Democratic leadership in New York is urging that Secretary Early be relieved of his White House duties until after election - this to nullify the effect of the kicking story on the negro vote. Some are saying that the secretarial kick will lose as many negro votes as were gained when the President a few days ago made history by promoting a negro officer to the rank of Brigadier-General. It's complicated politics when a kick gets tangled up with high army command,

Brigadier-General no less. Anyway, Democrats think something should be done to nullify the political effect of the kick, something like a dose of discipline for the White House Secretary.

Eastern Republican Campaign Manager, Sam Pryor, states that the suggestion to the President that Steve Early be relieved of his duties was made by Democratic National Chairman Flynn of the Bronx.

Anyhow the story of the Negro policeman is becoming a thing of national consequence, with newspaper men interviewing notabilities on the subject. Today they sought the opinion of guess who? Joe Louis. Joe, the heavyweight champion, gave his view. He called the alleged kick - "very ungentlemanly." The Brown Bomber then expressed himself in these epigrammatic words: "The man was there to protect the President, not to hurt him, and he didn't know the man." It sounds a little bit like Gertrude Stein. But in any question of heavyweight championship and literary style, page Gene Tunney.

And let's also page Hugh James who is smiling as though he might have a Hallowe'en prank up his sleeve.