

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1941.

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight we know a bit more about the torpedoing of the KEARNEY. Details were made public late this afternoon by the Secretary of the Navy himself.

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Secretary Knox revealed them almost at the moment when Senators on the floor were throwing acid remarks at each other about the ~~torpedoing of the~~ KEARNEY. Nye of North Dakota had made the definite statement that no American lives have been lost in any of the ships that the Nazis had sunk in this war. Up spoke Senator Josh Lee of Oklahoma and asked, "What about the eleven killed on the KEARNEY?"

Nye retorted, "The KEARNEY wasn't sunk."

Then Lee replied, "No, but the men were killed and the Navy didn't shoot them."

To which Senator Nye countered with the words, "We don't know what the KEARNEY was doing," and he asked, "Does

the Senator know?"

So the announcement by Secretary Knox comes as a direct answer to Senator Nye, and here it is: "The KEARNEY was protecting a convoy of merchant ships on the night of October Sixteenth.

Suddenly signals of distress came from another convoy some leagues distant, signals that submarines were attacking it. The KEARNEY

~~WENT~~ went to the rescue. Sighting a merchant ship under attack by

a submarine, the KEARNEY dropped depth bombs."The statement from

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Knox continued: "Soon afterwards three torpedo tracks were

observed approaching the U.S.S. KEARNEY, one passed ahead of the

ship, one astern, and the third struck the KEARNEY on the starboard

side in the vicinity of the forward fire rooms."

This happened some three hundred and fifty miles to the southwest of Iceland. The official statement says further that the explosions were so powerful that they breached the side of the destroyer well into the waterline, flooded the forward boiler compartment, and killed the men stationed in the boiler room on the steaming watch. The explosion was forward and upward, so that the deck over the fire room was ruptured with such force that

wreckage was thrown onto the bridge. Her skipper, Lieutenant-
Commander Danis, immediately sounded the ^{signal}~~alarm~~ for casualty and
ship damage routine. By this prompt action he prevented the
KEARNEY from sinking. She was escorted to port by other destroyers,
and the badly injured men removed to hospital.

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Secretary Knox ^{today} also made public a report by Rear Admiral
Robinson, Chief of the Bureau of Ships. It stated that the force
of the explosion not only opened the starboard side of the KEARNEY
but blew out the deck overhead and caused damage to the deck house
and bridge above. The forward boiler room and a small compartment
were completely flooded, but the ship remained upright with very
little change in trim. Moreover, adds the Admiral the machinery
was of such excellent type and design that the engine remained
serviceable.

The sinking of German submarines by American warships will probably not be revealed to the public. Secretary of the Navy Knox intimated as much today. The idea would be to keep the Nazis guessing, make them worry when their submarines don't return to port.

This policy has been followed out by the British Admiralty. Said Knox:—"Great Britain has been in the war a long time combating submarines but you've not read about many of them being sunk." And he added: "Obviously a lot of them have been sunk."

ROOSEVELT

The Germans are still ^{fulminating} ~~frothing at the mouth~~ over President Roosevelt's Navy Day speech. ~~The response in Hitler's Reich is one loud scream of anger. In fact, a~~ Nazi spokesman ^{said today} ~~said it could be so described.~~ He ~~said further~~ that the President's refusal to publish that ^e much debated map and the documented Nazi plan to abolish religions was proof that any such documents are sheer fabrications and forgeries. The Nazi Foreign Office distributed photostatic copies of a map of South America which had been published in the last August issue of FORTUNE MAGAZINE. And the spokesman for the Foreign Office declared that this map may have been the one that Mr. Roosevelt spoke about.

A newspaper in Santiago de Chile editorialized that Uncle Sam was marching rapidly towards war. ^{The U.S.A.} ~~"Our government,"~~ said the Chilean newspaper, "has not yet actively entered the conflict because it wants unanimous approval and is educating its people intelligently to such an end." That editorial appeared in "El Mercurio", which John Gunther in his book "Inside Latin-America" describes as the most important newspaper in Santiago. In his

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A Paraguayan diplomat expressed grave alarm over that
mpa, dividing Latin America into five vassal states.

And here's a comment from the Antipodes. A newspaper
in Melbourne, capital of the State of Victoria, says that the
President's Navy Day Speech has only one logical sequence, the full
participation of the United States in the war. Another Melbourne
daily goes farther saying that "while Congress still is discussing
neutrality, America is at war."

NEUTRALITY FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

In that debate on the floor of the Senate, Senator Nye was leading the fight of the non-intervention bloc against the neutrality repeal. He waxed quite rhetorical, saying: "The gloves are off now, the claws are out. The moussé (meaning the American people) has been played with long enough. Now is the time to gobble it." Then he said: "In the West the betting is ten-to-one that if we pass this repealer, the United States will be in the war before Great Britain is in." And he continued: "It has been well established in our experience that an armed merchantman is less safe than one unarmed."

"If we get actively into the war," said Nye "as this present program would lead us, it is going to be our war all the way and no longer a mere proposition of holding Stalin's coat and handing up the water bucket and sponge to England."

The U. S. Army is all set to take a hand in the strike at the Air Associates Plant in Bendix, New Jersey. The news was first made public by Richard Frankenstein, head of the Aviation Division of the United Automobile Workers. As Frankenstein put it, an Army major is being sent to Bendix to enforce the order of the National Defense Mediation Board for a settlement of the strike at the Air Associates Plant. Frankenstein said he'd heard it over the telephone from Sidney Hillman, Associate Director of the O.P.M. Reporters asked Frankenstein whether this meant the Army would be taking over. To which Frankenstein replied it meant just what he said. Which left the matter somewhat less than clear.

Later an announcement came from the War Department by Under-Secretary Paterson. He said a representative of the Army would be in Bendix tomorrow to supervise the reinstatement of strikers. Paterson wired both the union and the company advising them that the War Department expects the cooperation of both sides. That seems to clear up the most immediately menacing situation on the labor front, Frankenstein's threat to call a general C.I.O. strike in the East as published this morning.

But the Coal situation is just like the bottom of the mines themselves -- dark and gloomy. John L. Lewis and Myron Taylor had their much publicized conference at a hotel in Washington today. William H. Davis, Chairman of the National Mediation Board sat in too. They met at ten and by half-past three they'd apparently got nowhere, since they were all seen going to the White House just before four o'clock. When the reporters questioned Lewis he told them to talk to Mr. Taylor. When the reporters questioned Taylor he said "We are going to the White House, and that's all I can say."

And that's how the coal story stood up to a late hour today.

LEWIS FOLLOW STRIKE

John L. Lewis was described on the floor of the Senate today as a traitor to American ideals. Those words were spoken by Senator Ellender of Louisiana, in the course of a debate on the coal strike. He said further, "I warn the American working men not to follow this labor bully, I plead with the laboring man to foster a movement to throw out such leadership before it is too late." And then he concluded:- "I further brand Mr. Lewis a traitor to the boys who are now preparing to defend the country and to the American labor movement."

ADD COAL

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And here's more about the coal strike. President Roosevelt made a fourth demand upon John Lewis to reopen the coal mines, and Lewis for the fourth time refused. For two hours the President tried his own hand at settling that dispute with Lewis, Myron Taylor and Chairman Davis present. Lewis declined to give a final answer tonight. He said he would confer tomorrow with District leaders of the Mine Workers Union and then give an answer.

HOUSING

— that is in the
The housing situation threatens to become desperate ^{around} ~~vicinity of~~ factories turning out materials for defense. Nathan Straus, the Federal Housing Administrator, ~~told it to~~ ^{so informed} the Senate Committee investigating defense. Straus puts the blame on the policy that has distributed ~~authority for~~ ^{the job of} housing construction among different government agencies, ^{that are all} without experience ^{in such construction,} All power for defense housing was taken away from his own agency which now has charge almost entirely of projects that have nothing to do with defense. Straus put it this way:- "I predict the most desperate housing conditions in defense-production-centers this winter! ^Dangerous congestion!" And he added, "It could all have been avoided if the tested machinery of established housing agencies had been used."

WAR

Here's a bright side to the news from the Eastern front, as the military observers in Britain see it. They think conditions for the Soviet armies may possibly have taken a turn for the better. They say it's mostly the bad weather that's responsible. The nazis wallowing in mud and slush even along the southern front, where they were threatening the key city of Rostov. It's worth noticing that the Nazis also admit they had to slow up because their panzer divisions were mired.

But, in spite of all this, Hitler's armies north and south of Moscow are beginning to join forces east of the capital, closing the pincers. That's the latest from Berlin. The Nazi spokesman described the weather as incredible. The Russians admit that Stalin's armies have been forced back at Kalinin, a hundred miles north of Moscow.

Also news from the Crimea, scene of one of the bungled wars of the Nineteenth Century, when British, French and Turks fought together against the Russians. That war is now chiefly remembered because of the poem telling how the British Light Brigade charged into the mouths of Russian artillery at Balaclava.

Tonight Russians are on the offensive again in the broad plans ⁱ of the Crimea. The Nazis declare they have forced the defenses on the narrow isthmus that joins the Crimea to the mainland. The Soviet troops are retreating, they say, and the Nazis have got as far as the narrow strait which separates the Crimea from the coast of Georgia. Once in Georgia, the Nazis will be practically at the back door of the Caucasus. With the Crimea in their possession, they will command the Black Sea, especially as they will have the great Russian naval fortress of Sebastopol, which the army of the Czar evacuated in Eighteen Fifty-Four after blowing it up.

Here's a later bulletin from London. The Russians have evacuated Kharkov, which the Germans ~~ix~~ already claimed to have captured. Kharkov is one of the biggest industrial cities in the south of Russia. And the Reds got away with not only their armies but the entire population of the city and blew up some of the plants of military importance, before they left.

A late dispatch from London says it is believed tonight that Lord Beaverbook is resigning from the War Cabinet, not because of ill health as first reported, but as a protest against the refusal of the Churchill govt. to send a strong British expeditionary force *to Russia*

BALLOON

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In North Carolina, a county commissioner was taking it easy on his front porch when he heard an unusual sound in the air.

What he saw was more unusual than what he heard. A smoke-house filled with fine North Carolina hams was cavorting through the sky where

smoke-houses have no business to be. He called the chief of police

who tried to start up his car to investigate. ^{The} ~~His~~ ignition system

was full of rain, so the police chief had to ^{get out and cranks her,} ~~crank his car.~~ The

motor back-fired, the crank hit him and blacked his eye ^{and that} ~~was~~ ^{was} enough for the chief for one day.

Meanwhile, another farmer a few miles away, reported that

something mysterious had come down from the sky and carried off his

pig pen with a fine healthy sow and twelve shoats. So there was the

smoke-house ^{a-} ~~just~~ sailing through the air, ^{with} ~~and~~ a pig pen underneath it,

and in the ^{pen} were ^{Just above,} the shoats not ~~being~~ old enough yet ~~to qualify~~ for the smoke-house,

^{if you follow me,}

The answer soon was in evidence. A captive balloon had

broken away from its crew at Camp Davis, North Carolina, and it was

the two thousand feet steel cables dangling from the balloon that

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had ^h ~~wipped~~ up smoke-house, pig pen, shoates and all.

Presently, that balloon cable ^{clashed} ~~sailed~~ ~~afoul~~ of an

electric power line, whereby thirteen unwilling passengers met an

involuntary death, meaning the sow and the twelve shoates. At the

same time ~~it~~ ^{ing} blacked out a nearby town. But the balloon ~~hadn't~~ ^{escaped} ~~done~~ ^{did still}

~~done enough~~ ^{more} damage. The cables fouled still more power lines,

shut off the current from a power station, short-circuited lines in

Norfolk, Virginia, two hundred miles away, almost broke a large

water-main, and finished up by carrying off a week's washing from

a clothesline near Swanbury, North Carolina.

~~And that~~ ^{Thus} ends the ^{reading of the} sad story of the death of the twelve

little pigs, with no apologies to Walt Disney.

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The City of Wildwood, New Jersey, has a new law on the statute books. The law reads: "Dogs are not permitted to bark between ten p.m. and six a.m." I should add that the law has teeth in it, for any owner whose dogs bark after ten o'clock at night is to be fined ten dollars. Wildwood, New Jersey!

Oh yes! That's where my Movietone comic pal, Lew Lehr used to have his summer home. I wonder what they do about monkeys in Wildwood, Lew? Anyhow, ordering dogs to stop barking from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. sounds like monkey business. And, Lew, I'm convinced now that monkeys are not the craziest people!

Hugh, is there a doctor in the house?

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