

L.T. SUNOCO. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1939.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The news focus is on Holland tonight, with all sorts of suspense in the question, "Does Nazi Germany intend an ~~a~~ invasion of the Netherlands?"

There are official efforts to play down the supposition. At the Hague today, Holland Foreign Minister van Kleffens told the Dutch Parliament that the stories of Nazi menace were exaggerated. He condemned what he called - "an alarmist campaign."

The principal bit of Holland news to cause alarm is the word that British and American officials in the Netherlands are urging their nationals to leave the country -- the usual prelude when trouble is expected. We hear that the United States consuls are advising Americans to depart, unless they have the

most urgent reasons for remaining.

And then there are continued reports of defense measures the Dutch are taking, military precautions on the German frontier.

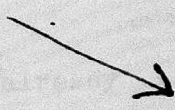
And right in the middle of that, an ugly incident - a killing at

the border. There was shooting between Germans and Netherlanders near a frontier town, <sup>with</sup> a Hollander killed. *And tonight brings*

*word of a virtual blackout in parts*

*of Holland.* Reports of Dutch defense are climaxed by one thing that

has a touch of romance - reminiscence of history, the memory of brave days gone by. We are told that if the Germans invade, the Hollanders will open the dikes and flood their land - to check them.



The possibility of an invasion of Holland inevitably brings reports that have a touch of romance - opening the dikes, and flooding large areas to stop the invaders. The Netherlands, Low Countries - these names are expressive of the fact that much of Holland is below sea-level, the flood kept out by great embankments - the dikes. And in times gone by, the Hollanders have opened the dikes, inundated their own land to stop an attacking ~~enemy~~ <sup>that</sup>. They did ~~it~~ with signal success when they won their independence from Spain in the days when Spain was the mightiest military power of Europe.

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And Today, there are reports that the Dutch ~~has~~ <sup>we</sup> already opened the dikes, let loose the flood. Other accounts ~~are~~ that they ~~had~~ <sup>we</sup> not yet done so, but ~~are~~ ready - ready at a moment's notice to drown out large sections to stop Hitler's mechanized battalions, should these come storming. <sup>Yes</sup>, all that has a touch of romance, and is being played up in the news. But ~~it~~ it's well to wonder - how much effect do the romantic factors really have in modern war? What prize glamour in a blitzkrieg?

FLOODS - 4

Today from London comes a word of warning, British military experts speaking up and saying - don't put too much faith in the opening of the dikes. ~~British military men~~ <sup>They</sup> are pointing out that flooding the land could ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> be done in southern Holland, and that's precisely where the Germans would drive for a flanking move through Belgium. Yes, miles and miles of flooded country in central Holland would stop the Nazi motorized equipment, but the waters would be only a few inches deep, and ~~the~~ <sup>infantry</sup> could push on. At the same time, there would be enough elevated land and good roads for mechanized units to get swiftly across. The British military experts are saying that only the bitterest opposition could slow down a blitzkrieg advance, and keep the Germans from getting to Amsterdam in a hurry.

3 { So it would appear that practical army men on the Allied side are not putting much stock in the old idea, so famous in song and story, of the Dutch stopping the invader by opening the dikes.

~~Right here~~ <sup>tidings</sup> Right here let's observe one thing about ~~things~~ we hear from embattled Europe. Weeks ago I ventured to suggest some rules for listening to war news on the radio, and tonight ~~and~~

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I'd like to add another - be skeptical when picturesque and romantic methods of battle are played up in modern war. Such colorful affairs make interesting stories, have a sentimental appeal - but do they really work? There's a striking example of this in each of the wars during the past few years, wars that we've heard about on the radio. <sup>R</sup> Remember when the Japanese invaded China, and were battling savagely at Shanghai? Then we were told of the mighty deeds of a Chinese legion, called by ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> beguiling, <sup>exotic</sup> ~~exotic~~ name - "the big swords?" Traditional Chinese swordsmen going into battle, waving those huge fantastic blades, so characteristic of ancient China. It was picturesque all right, and you'd have thought from the stories that Japanese tanks, machine guns and artillery were going to be defeated by the sharp edges of the big swords. <sup>But</sup> it was all nonsense, of course.

Then, all through the Spanish Civil War there were theatrical tales about the Asturian dynamite throwers, hard bitten miners who fought by throwing sticks of dynamite. They <sup>were</sup> ~~they~~ accomplished <sup>But</sup> wonders against the Franco mechanized equipment. It turned out, <sup>that</sup> ~~however~~ ~~as everybody should have known~~ sticks of dynamite tossed

by miners, were not as effective as modern hand grenades and artillery shells.

But the prize of the lot came along during the conquest of Ethiopia. A remarkable story ~~came through~~ of how Haile Selassie's barefooted warriors were going to stop Mussolini's motorized columns - with elephant traps. The Ethiopian tribesmen were digging the kind of covered pit with which they were accustomed to catch the giant African pachyderm.

Elephant traps in a modern technological military campaign, that

5-0  
*like* ~~was~~ something! *sounded* But it wasn't!

The present war was only a few days old when a romantic touch promptly appeared. As Hitler's blitzkrieg slashed into Poland, the wires from Warsaw flashed optimistic word about the prodigies expected of the Polish cavalry. And, most colorful of all - the Polish Lancers. That really did have glamour - featuring those historic horsemen in the gayest of uniforms, and charging with leveled lances. They were equally gallant on a battlefield or in a ball room. It turned out that the Polish Lancers ~~were~~ nowadays rather more effective in a ballroom than on a modern

battlefield. The whole story of the Polish cavalry matched against machine guns, tanks and flame throwers was one of brave and pitiful tragedy.

So now at this present moment, as the world is tense with the possibility of a German invasion of Holland, once more we have the romantic touch, the Hollanders <sup>to</sup> opening the dikes and flooding the land as in the brave days of old.

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It remains to <sup>be seen</sup> ~~see~~ what will happen, But I think it's a sound rule when listening to war news; ~~to~~ be skeptical when picturesque and romantic methods of battle are played up. ~~in a modern war.~~

## HITLER

Jumpy nerves in Germany are indicated by an incident prominently reported in Berlin. After the melodramatic attempt to bomb Hitler, the Nazis gasped when a show-window was found shattered, a show-window in front of the studio of a prominent German photographer. In the window was hung a big picture of Hitler. It looked as though the window might have been broken by somebody taking a shot with some kind of missile at the face of the Fuehrer in the large photograph - like heaving a brick at Hitler. Or maybe the show-window might have been broken accidentally. *Nobody knows.*

With the present state of Nazi nerves, the window business made a sensation.

3-2  
A bad day in court was had ~~today~~ by Fritz Kuhn, head of the German American Bund. It wasn't because of testimony in Kuhn's trial on a charge of appropriating funds of the Bund for his own uses. The National Secretary of the German American organization testified that he kept no records, although the constitution of the Bund requires that records be kept. *And another witness said Kuhn was allowed a free hand with money.*  
The thing that startled Fritz Kuhn was something

that had nothing to do with his trial at all. Proceedings were interrupted so that sentence might be passed on a jewel robber. The convicted prisoner stood only a few feet from the German-American Fuehrer and Kuhn was so startled his glasses almost dropped from his face as he heard the ~~charge~~ judge pronounce the sentence -- thirty to sixty years.

That kind of justice gave Kuhn a severe shock, -- as he himself was there on trial for misappropriation of funds.

## SHIPPING

53  
President Roosevelt is working on a broad plan to help the American shipping industry out of troubles caused by the Neutrality Law. The problem is to enable the American merchant marine to get some sort of business that will take the place of the trade the Neutrality Law forbids - trade with ports in the war zones of Europe.

At his press conference, the President spoke of the proposal to transfer American-owned ships to the flag of Panama, so that they could ~~sail~~ sail in the war zone - the proposal to which Secretary of State Hull has objected. The President said he thought the <sup>flag</sup> transfer <sub>^</sub> ~~of ships to the Panamanian flag~~ was legal, but he added most decidedly that the proposal should be held up, while there was an investigation of other ways of helping the merchant marine, other ways than by the shifting of flags.

MARINES

Armistice Day tomorrow will be celebrated in striking fashion in the City of Hudson, New York. All business will be suspended for one hour, between ten forty-five and eleven forty-five, in the morning. Every activity will be shut down, the citizens dedicating that hour in respect and reverence for the soldiers who served in the World War and to a determination that the United States shall keep out of the present war.

54  
Tomorrow may be Armistice Day, but today was also an occasion to be noted. It was Marine Corp<sup>s</sup> Day. ~~This was~~

So  
proclaimed in New York by Governor ~~Lehman~~ <sup>Lehman</sup>, and ~~was~~ observed

all over the country -- with suitable honors for the Marines,

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The Marine Corp<sup>s</sup> prides itself on being the oldest branch of the armed forces of the United States.

## THANKSGIVING

~~Baldwin~~  
Today the Governor ~~Baldwin~~ of Connecticut issued a proclamation setting the date for Thanksgiving. What date? The question had a dramatic suspense, because President Roosevelt in his own Thanksgiving Day proclamation advanced the date one week - the next to the last instead of the last Thursday of November. A lot of people didn't agree with that alteration of tradition, including some governors. They declared they'd proclaim the traditional day, no matter what the President did. One of these dissenting governors was Baldwin of Connecticut. So what date did he proclaim today? The last Thursday, the traditional day - November the Thirtieth.

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However, Governor Baldwin made one concession to the President's Thanksgiving Day. He proclaimed the ~~third~~ <sup>next to the last</sup> Thursday, November Twenty-Third - a bank holiday. That gives the Connecticut Yankees <sup>a chance</sup> to celebrate whatever day they please, or both. *Knowing a lot of Connecticut as I think I'll be both!*

## FOOTBALL

A fellow on the radio gets a lot of peculiar requests. The other day somebody wrote in and asked me to interpret a dream! <sup>of me -</sup> Once a man inquired - What was the best make of artificial leg?

The latest request was - for a couple of mules. My first impulse was to say, "Go to Missouri." But the questioner was from Missouri - Homer Croy, the writer and humorist. Homer has been all steamed up about the ~~football invasion his native state is making into New York.~~ The University of Missouri coming to play New York University. And Homer wanted a couple of mules to drive <sup>in</sup> the football procession. He had inquired and inquired, but couldn't find any mules in New York City. So he asked me, and ~~I inquired and inquired.~~ And I finally located a couple of mules. But Homer Croy took one look at them and said - "No, not big enough." The <sup>Football team</sup> ~~team mix~~ from Missouri wouldn't recognize them as mules. They'd have to be sixteen hands high, not a finger less." Well, you just can't please some people - and the Missourians will have to play football without mules. ~~They'll have to be content with such oddities as three married men on the varsity team,~~

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Football suggests a mention of -- All American. But this time it's operatic, an All-American soprano. A hundred per cent American -- a full blood Chickasaw Indian. As "Aida", the Chicago Civic Opera Company tonight is presenting Modley Lushanya, a member of the Chickasaw tribe. She began her vocal career singing at redskin pow-wows down in Oklahoma. She chanted old Indian songs so well at inter-tribal palavers, that she was sent to study singing, and now is the first Indian soprano to sing a star role in a major opera house.

DOG

57  
In New York, Engine Company Number Two Hundred and Three is in sadness tonight - in mourning for Nig. He was the victim of a hit-and-run driver - Nig, the small mongrel pooch who for ten years was the firehouse dog. Every time the alarm sounded for Engine Number Two Hundred and Three, Nig would come scamping<sup>er</sup> and take one high jump all the way up to the tall seat of the driver. Nig always made it at a single bound. And at the fire Nig would take an active part, dashing in among ~~smoking flames and~~ smoke and flames, and sometimes he saved lives.

~~Nig~~<sup>He</sup> was decorated with three life-saving medals and once received a <sup>dog</sup> magazine diploma of honor for valor.

The exploit which most endeared him to the firemen occurred three years ago. Nig hated cats, had an acute dog's dislike for tabby. He was always chasing cats. But in a tenement house fire Nig dashed into the blaze and saved - a cat. He knew his duty, and he came out dragging a badly ~~singed~~<sup>pussey</sup> ~~tabby~~.

Today, the firemen were telling about Nig's end. Hit by a car and badly injured, he dragged himself into the station house. He crawled to Engine Number Two Hundred and Three.

Fatally hurt, he crouched and gathered all his strength and took a leap for the driver's seat, the leap he had so often made.

For the first time he fell short, couldn't make it. He dropped back to the pavement and died - the end of Nig, the hero dog.

corruptly filling up his car. So what did the cops do?

They sneaked in and filled the tank with water.

Some time afterward they found a seventeen-year old youth

pushing his automobile, the tank full of water.

THIEF

58  
Here's a cunning trick played by the cops at Athol, Massachusetts. Somebody was stealing gasoline from a storage tank. Day after day gas was missing from the tank. Somebody, instead of going to the local Blue Sunoco dealer, was sneaking in and surreptitiously filling up his car. So what did the cops do? They sneaked in and filled the tank with water.

Some time afterward they found a seventeen year old youth pushing his automobile, the tank full of water.

DIVORCE

58 1/2 We all know the ~~mean~~ tricks that some women can play - especially on their husbands. And this should take a prize of some kind. At Worcester, Massachusetts, mama didn't want sonny boy to become too ~~chummy~~ ~~chummy~~ ~~with~~ chummy with daddy. Why? I don't know. But here's what she did.

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Daddy is Irish, mama is French. Mama taught Sonny boy as a little <sup>shaver</sup> ~~boy~~ how to talk - which is mama's job. But this particular mama taught <sup>her</sup> sonny boy to talk French - no English, only French, and daddy couldn't talk French. Instead of teaching sonny boy to say "Yes", mama taught him to say "Oui, oui." Instead of "please" she taught him to say "s'il vous plait." So when daddy would try to have a chat with sonny boy, sonny ~~boy~~ would go parles vous.

Today daddy got a divorce from mama.

59 1/4 And now Hugh, what from  
You? French or English?