

L.J. P. & G. Monday, April 5, 1948.

NIGHT SHOW

BERLIN (New Story)

April 5th 1948

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Highlight of the news from Berlin this evening - a Russian apology. The Russian controlled German news agency ~~agency~~ issuing a statement that (the Soviet Military Administration is "deeply regretful" about the crash caused by a Soviet fighter plane hitting a British airliner. Fifteen people killed.

Following this Soviet apology, the American, French and British Commanders have cancelled their previous orders for fighter plane protection for Allied planes in the air corridor linking the Allied zones of Germany with Berlin.) ~~It seems that~~ ^{It} The Soviets have not only apologised; ~~but~~ they are guaranteeing us complete freedom of the air, which is exactly what General Lucius Clay wanted.

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The war of nerves between the Allies and the Soviet in Berlin reached a new climax this morning when (a Russian fighter pilot buzzed a British airliner as it came down

to land at Gatow Airfield, ^{Berlin.} The Russian pilot colliding with the airliner which fell in flames.) The R.A.F. says the accident was caused by "bad piloting", the Russian pilot having no right to be flying in the air corridor. But the Russian explanation, which is coupled with the official apology, is that the Soviet pilot was trying to land at a nearby Russian airfield.

When he heard of the crash the British Commander Sir Brian Robertson immediately called on Marshall Sokolovsky, the Russian Commander, and demanded no more interference with British aircraft. He told the Russian Commander that the British Foreign Office was taking a very serious view of the matter. ~~the British House will discuss it tomorrow.~~ Sokolovsky promptly gave Sir Brian an assurance there would be no more interference. Also, ^{he} ~~has~~ agreed to a joint investigation, ~~of the circumstances.~~

The British airliner fell on Russian territory, ~~burning fiercely,~~ but the Russian plane, which was not so badly damaged, crashed in the British area. The Russians established armed guards over both planes, rushing troops

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into the British sector to guard their fighter plane, ^{at}
^{the same time} and cynically refusing the British ^{an opportunity} to approach the burn-
ing airliner.

^{however}
Tonight, [^] it looks as if relations between the Soviets and the Allies in Berlin have improved - a bit. The Russians ~~are~~ climbing down. The news wire says the Soviets have asked for a "peace conference". They want to end this so-called "battle for Berlin" - the war of nerves which they started.

~~When our side agreed to a conference the Soviets quickly named the place and the time for a meeting. All of which demonstrates that our show of strength obtained results. - American and British food trains are moving freely through the Soviet zone tonight with not a Russian soldier in sight - so we no longer have to supply Berlin by air.~~

As a gesture on our part, the Americans have withdrawn the military police cordon which we threw around the Soviet rail control center - in the American zone. This cordon really annoyed the Russians. Goaded

them to words - words of conciliation. They didn't like it when American MP's stopped two Russian Generals from commuting, and so with one thing leading to another and Uncle Sam refusing to budge on any point, the Reds have suggested talking things over.

Tomorrow Marshall Sokolovsky is dining with British Commander Sir Brian, the guest of honor for the occasion is British Field Marshall Montgomery. You can imagine that conversation at dinner will be somewhat limited. Pretty formal in view of the ticklish situation, but the British are masters of small talk, and the Russians can always tell a good story over a glass of vodka.

ITALY

The Communists in Italy are still complaining. As a result of the pre-election street fighting, the Reds are worried because too many of their side are getting hurt. They claim that eight of the thirteen killed in the past two weeks, have been Communists. Not fair to kill us, say the Reds. So the Executive Committee of the Communist-led Labor Confederation of six million members, is calling a meeting in Rome. Shall they call a nationwide strike in protest? That's to be decided.

Observers in Rome believe that if the Communists do engineer a strike, then violence will increase. If they vote to keep their members at work, the Reds may attempt to organize a political coup to seize power before the election. The Communists, of course, are desperately anxious that a free Italy shall not go to the polls.

Late word from Rome: that thousands of non-Communists have been injured in the widespread pre-election riots. One, a parish priest on Sardinia -- murdered in his home -- by the Reds. The Communists

insist he was killed by Fascists.

Tonight all Italy awaits the decision of the Red Labor leaders as to whether to call a general strike.

EGYPT

Rioting in Egypt -- in the streets of Alexandria. Fighting between rioters and soldiers took a toll of thirty lives -- and hundreds injured, in that great seaport. The rioting began shortly after it became known that the Egyptian police were striking for higher wages, -- a nationwide walkout of the gendarmes.

Which was the signal for all the hoodlums and vagabonds and that immense horde of beggars for which Egypt is famous. They poured from the narrow streets of the native quarters -- on an orgy of looting. They set four movie houses afire. They looted the fashionable shops on Avenues Sheriffa Pasha and King Fuad, Fifth Avenue and Michigan Boulevard of Alexandria.

The Alexandria Fire Department had ninety calls within two hours, alarmed residents calling for the fire fighters in the absence of the police -- but getting no response. The mobs jamming the streets prevented the fire crews from moving. One group of the loot-mad ran through an express train, halted in the station, robbing passengers, breaking windows, ripping out the upholstery.

Alexandria a city of terror, residents of the fashionable Mazarita residential section fleeing as the mob surged into their homes. The looters carrying off rugs and furnishings, and anything they could lay their hands on.

The rioting continued until Egyptian Premier Nokrashy Pasha arrived from Cairo and called out the army. He told the troops to shoot anyone disobeying orders. The soldiers soon brought the situation under control with tanks and ~~occasional~~^{some} rifle fire.

Tonight the streets of Alexandria are empty - a curfew from seven p.m. to sunrise when the Musselman will once again call the faithful to prayer from the tower of the mosque.

As for the striking ~~cop~~^{gendarmes,} they are to be fired if they don't take up their night sticks within twenty-four hours.

FREEDOM_OF_INFORMATION_CONFERENCE

There is one important thing going on which has been little noticed -- the International Conference on Freedom of Information, at Geneva, Switzerland. The nations of the world have sent representatives there to formulate a program for world freedom of the news.

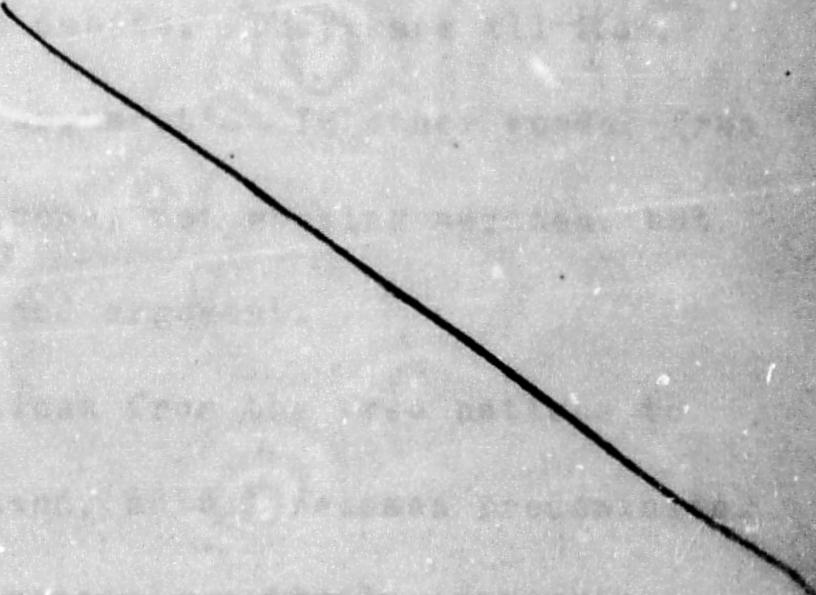
Today the word came that a new consultant had joined the American Delegation -- Hugh Baillie of the United Press. So I picked up my office telephone, and put in a call on the trans-Atlantic cable -- to Hugh Baillie; calling Switzerland. In a moment I had him and I was saying -- "tell us what it's like". What's gone been happening?

And I asked a question almost inevitable. What about the delegations from Soviet Russia and the Soviet satellite states -- journalistic representatives from behind the Iron Curtain.

"The first thing that struck me", he laughed, "was the clothes they wore -- so exceedingly well dressed. They don't look like newspapermen", he went on, "nothing to remind an American of an editor or a

reporter. They look like diplomats -- and, in fact, they are" -- the Prince Albert, striped pants boys.

Hugh Baillie told me that, instead of sending working newspapermen to the world conference dealing with journalism, the



Soviets and their satellites have sent members of their diplomatic ~~XXXXXX~~ corps.--Which led to another significant detail about them.

"I was immediately impressed", said the head of U.P., "by their skill in debate. They know all ~~the~~ Parliamentary tricks in argument". In other words, from behind the Iron Curtain come, not working newsmen, but professionals of debate and argument.

In the delegations from the free nations to the West, on the other hand, actual newsmen predominate. ~~The American Delegation consists entirely of working journalists, who began as young reporters. The British Delegation, too, is made up of practical newsmen.~~

The Western ^{delegates} ~~newsmen~~ have presented their proposals for world freedom of information. A resolution against censorship -- no censorship on the news going abroad, except in cases of military security. All foreign correspondents to have equal access to facilities for transmission. And stop expelling foreign correspondents

just because they write something that somebody doesn't like.

~~All this is, of course, opposed by the Soviets and their satellites, with whom censorship and suppression of news is a gospel. So the picture in the lofty, ornate conference room is one of endless objection made by these Iron Curtain representatives, who are dressed like diplomats.~~

~~and the diplomats.~~ *In spite of the* Professionals in debate and argument, ~~in~~

~~they've been~~ displaying all their skill, ~~But, nevertheless~~

those three resolutions for freedom of information have been adopted in committee.

On the trans-Atlantic telephone, Hugh Baillie in Geneva sounded buoyantly hopeful, and told me that it looks as if the International Conference on Freedom of Information would really accomplish something, would get a sound agreement for freedom of the news -- at least among the liberal nations outside of the Iron Curtain.

FOREIGN AID

President Truman today set our new global foreign aid program in motion. He ordered the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to advance one billion, one hundred and five million dollars immediately ^{to} to China, and ^{to} non-Communist Europe. This sum to be made available for military and economic help to the Marshall Plan countries, *at once.*

PALESTINE

~~In Manhattan~~ Today, U.S. Delegate Warren Austin made an important statement ^{of} ~~has just revealed~~ to a closed meeting ~~how~~ the U.N. Security Council, a fifteen point American plan for the U.N. trusteeship of Palestine. This U.S. plan, which will replace the original partition scheme, calls for the U.N. to be the administrative authority in Palestine, responsible to a sixteen nation trustee council. The U.N. administration ~~is~~ to be headed by a Governor General appointed by the Council, and the government of the Holy Land to ~~be undertaken by a~~ ^{consist of a} Cabinet and a legislature elected by popular vote - ~~in other words,~~ a democratic election.

An American spokesman emphasized to newsmen that the plan is only temporary - "indefinite," ~~is now~~ ^{as} he put it. The trusteeship to be terminated the moment the Arabs and Jews come to an agreement. ~~on a form of government.~~ ^{And, the} The Governor General is to be ~~charged~~ ^{instructed} by the U.N. to do everything within his power to further ~~an agreement, between the two~~ ^{such} peoples.

^{But}
~~The time is pressing. The General Assembly is due to meet for a special Palestine session to consider the trusteeship on April Sixteenth, and The British pull out just one month later. ^{to} That gives the General Assembly ^{just a} ~~month to agree on~~ ^{to reach} a solution to the dilemma in the Holy Land. ~~and to take over control.~~~~

But how is order to be maintained in this troubled land, where bloodshed and death are daily occurrences? The American plan is for the U.N. ^{Cabinet in Jerusalem} ~~government~~ to keep law and order by means of ^a ~~locally recruited police force and additional~~ volunteer troops - ^{just as} ~~which is how~~ the British managed in the early days of their mandate in Palestine. When these volunteer forces prove insufficient, ^{then} the Governor General ^{to} ~~shall~~ have authority to call on previously committed states to help maintain security. ^{TP} ~~and~~ there's the rub!. ~~The~~

United States emphasizes that its tentative suggestions carry no commitment ^{by us.} ~~on its part~~. And so the General Assembly ~~will then have to improvise - when a crisis arises, has to make up its mind~~ from where it will draw any troops

needed. These troops to come from the nations attending the General Assembly.

As ~~was to be expected~~ the U.N. plan has not found favor with ⁿ either the Arabs ⁿ or the Jews ⁿ *like the plan.* Bitter opposition from both ~~sides~~. The Jewish Agency calls it a scheme to put Palestine under ~~the~~ domination of the Arabs. They say they ~~are going to~~ resist it, - ~~the Jewish Agency warning that this proposal will be much harder to handle than the original partition program.~~

As for the Arab Higher Committee, they say, the Arabs in Palestine will accept no plan that places them under a foreign group. - ^{They} challenge ~~to~~ the authority of the U.N. The Arabs want to rule out any trusteeship ~~of Palestine~~ not administered by the Arabs

DEWEY

In Milwaukee tomorrow ~~Governor Thomas Dewey,~~
~~of New York, Harold Stassen and General Douglas~~
MacArthur face their first major test - the Wisconsin
Republican primary for the Presidential candidacy.

They have been running sample ballots in
Milwaukee. In one of these MacArthur has a substantial
lead, in another Stassen is way out ahead. *But that's*
Just Milwaukee.

~~However, Tom Dewey says he will not drop out~~
~~of the Presidential race even if he finishes last in~~
~~this Wisconsin Primary.~~

Supporters of the New York Governor are con-
fident that their ~~own's~~ margin of victory in nineteen-
forty-four will not be upset in this primary where each
candidate has a full slate of twenty-seven delegates
pledged to him.

Our Air

~~The Army~~ Air Forces have a problem on their hands

today. A problem that interests the flight physicians and psychiatrists. And perhaps the answer to this mystery of motivation may also be the answer to a question that has long been debated in flying circles. Is there such a thing as a born flyer? Can it be that we are producing a race of Americans so air conditioned, that the ability to fly is an inherited skill?

The news wire tells how Air Force Sergeant Malcolm McCrady, a flight engineer, with no previous experience at the controls of an airplane, took off from Dayton, Ohio, in a twin engine B-25 and flew to Owatonna, Minnesota, ^{— 560 miles.} McCrady flew by compass a more or less accurate course. And when he arrived he put the bomber down in a perfect landing, on a runway far shorter than the Army decrees for this type of plane. ^{And -} The B-25 is not the type ~~of~~ ^{of} plane ~~that~~ one man, even the most experienced, ~~pilot~~, can normally handle. Usually it's ~~is~~ operated by a flight crew of three. There are all kinds of

chores to be performed in such a twin engine plane, landing gear to be let down, flaps ~~to be~~ attended to, engine speed to be supervised. But McCrady did it all.

AIR FORCE

When ~~Army~~ officials asked him why and how, he just said that he wanted to go and see Mom and the folks. "I got up," he says, "and the first thing I knew I was over Chicago. I figured it was too late to turn back, and as I had to go somewhere, I went on and headed for home. Oh yes, I've watched pilots hundreds of times, and I suppose I knew what to do."

But the Army authorities are somewhat puzzled by the miracle of the McCrady flight. They say that by all the laws of the book, that B-25 should have nosed over on that short soft runway at Owatonna. But McCrady made it, ~~and he is being returned to Minneapolis safe and sound by automobile.~~

And now Nelson, will you take off.

BERLIN

Taken from early 4/5/48.

(In Berlin today, General Lucius Clay announces that fighter planes will escort all American transport planes flying through the Russian zone from now on.) Taking no chances. The British and French taking similar precautions. Until the Soviets guarantee freedom of the air, along that air corridor to Berlin, we are all going to be ready to protect ourselves.

All this as a result of this morning's collision between a Russian fighter and a British transport plane. The Russian pilot "buzzed" the British airliner as it came down to land at Gatow Airfield. Fourteen lives lost in the crash. Two of them Americans. The R.A.F. say the accident was caused by "bad piloting" -- the Russian pilot having no right to be flying in the air corridor. But, for the past three days Russian pilots have been making passes at any Allied aircraft flying in or out of Berlin. All part of the Soviet war of nerves - trying to drive the Allies from Berlin.

In London, the Foreign Office says that the

British government is taking a serious view of the matter.

It will be brought up in the House of Commons tomorrow.

Following the air collision, there was an extraordinary scene. The British airliner fell in Russian territory and burned fiercely, while the Russian plane, not so badly damaged, fell just inside British territory. The Russians immediately established armed guards over both planes, rushing into the British sector to guard their plane and cynically refusing to allow the British to approach either one.

(Late word is that the Russians still refuse to allow the British to remove the casualties from the crashed British transport. And, they still have their own crashed fighter under guard, the pilot of which was killed.)

On learning of the accident, British Commander General Sir Brian Robertson, called the Soviet commander for an urgent conference, as a result of which Sir Brian issued instructions that, from now on all British aircraft are to be guarded by British combat planes.

Meanwhile, the situation between Russia and the Allies in Berlin seems to have improved - a bit. The Russians reported to be climbing down. The news wire today carries the information that the Soviets have actually called for a "peace conference" to end this so-called battle of Berlin. The Soviets actually going so far as to name the place and ~~time~~ time for a meeting. That is, after the Americans and the British accepted the invitation to talk things over.

Tomorrow, Marshal Sokolovsky, the Soviet commander in Germany, is dining with the British commander, General Robertson. The guest of honor for the occasion being British Field Marshal Montgomery. Conversation at such a dinner naturally will be limited. Pretty formal, in view of the ticklish situation.

At any rate, on all sides there are signs that our show of strength is getting results. For instance, American and British food trains are now moving through the Soviet zone, ~~and~~ no longer sending it by air.

Also, as a gesture, the Americans have withdrawn their military police cordon from around the Soviet rail control center - which is in the American zone. That had caused the Russians considerable annoyance, especially when American M.P.'s stopped two Russian generals from commuting. Which the Soviets didn't like. Almost immediately afterward, the Reds suggested talking things over.

Alexandria a city of terror, residents of the fashionable Mazarita residential section fleeing as the mob surged into their homes. The looters carrying off rugs and furnishings, and anything they could lay their hands on.

Finally, the authorities called out the troops. Egyptian Premier Nokrashy Pasha came from Cairo to take charge; and ordered the soldiers to shoot anyone who disobeyed orders. The latest is ~~that~~ there has been plenty of shooting. At one time a mob of ten thousand rioters clashed with the troops, who drove them back with tanks and armored cars.

No apparent reason is given for all this happening except that the mob saw a chance to plunder. Later in the day, the mobs were joined by political groups, supporters of former Premier Mustapha Nanhass, and by the inevitable Communist agitators.

The ~~xxx~~ latest from Alexandria, that the situation is under control; with a seven p.m. to sunrise curfew clamped down. As for the striking "cops," they

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needed. These troops to come from the nations attending the
General Assembly, ~~and~~ The word around Lake Success is that now
~~are~~ ^{are} nation is anxious to ~~put itself forward for such a thankless~~ ^{play that}
role.

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Today the word came that a new consultant had joined the American Delegation -- Hugh Baillie of the United Press. ~~This is quite a step forward -- having the head of one of our great news services as adviser to our~~ ^g ~~delegation.~~ So I picked up my office telephone, and put in a call on the trans-Atlantic cable -- to Hugh Baillie, ^{calling Switzerland. In a moment I had him} ~~The next thing you know, we were talking to him~~ and I was saying -- "tell us what it's like." What's been happening?

~~He said that, right now, the work of the Conference is being done in committee -- various ~~committees~~ committees handling various topics. "But," he remarked, "You must not picture a committee room over here as being like anything in Washington -- small, stuffy,~~

unimpressive." He reminded me that this conference on news is meeting in a building of the one-time League of Nations -- and they certainly did things up in resplendent fashion for that old League. So, imagine a committee room large and lofty, stately and ornate -- palatial. There the committee is sitting around a massive table.

In our trans-Atlantic telephone talk, I asked a question almost inevitable. What about the delegations from Soviet Russia and the Soviet satellite states -- journalistic representatives from behind the Iron Curtain.

"The first thing that struck me," he laughed, "was the clothes they wore -- so exceedingly well dressed. They don't look like newspapermen," he went on, "nothing to remind an American of an editor or a reporter. They look like diplomats -- and, in fact, they are." -- the Prince Albert, striped pants boys.

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