

P.I. - Sunoco. Monday, Dec. 9, 1940.

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For a long time ~~it has~~ ^{it has} been prophesied that the Nazis would have plenty of troubles on their hands undertaking to suppress and Nazify the peoples of so many conquered countries. A couple of weeks ago we heard of sabotage against the Germans in Norway. The latest outbreak, surprisingly enough, is in Denmark. The row started yesterday. Several hundred Danish Nazis were marching into a town in South Jutland. The ~~police~~ ^{police} ~~Nazis~~ tried to stop them. But there were only a few Danish cops on the job. However, they were reinforced by ^{Danes} anti-Nazis. And there was fighting until midnight last night. Three-hundred-and-fifty Nazis were arrested and thrown into ~~jail~~ ^{a Danish jail}.

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Today there was a huge ~~multitude~~ ^{multitude} of thousands of Danes around that jail, Danes whose hatred of Nazis was unmistakable. They jeered those of their countrymen who supported the German faith. When a Danish Nazi leader tried to ~~enter~~ ^{enter} the jail to talk to his pal ^s the crowd booed him and sang Danish national songs.

HITLER

Hitler to make another speech -- to a group of armament workers tomorrow. And evidently he will use the occasion to make some important pronouncement. The Nazi official news agency reports that his tirade will be carried on all German radio stations. Anybody who wants to hear it in this country by short wave will have to get up early; around five in the morning.

ARGYROKASTRON

There was an impressive spectacle in Argyrokastron today, that Albanian mountain fortress which the Greeks captured from the Italians. ^{An} ~~A black bearded~~ ^{in full canonicals,} Archbishop celebrated mass, a solemn mass of thanksgiving. The Archbishop himself is a ^{even without the colorful robes of a Greek prelate,} picturesque figure. His face is decorated by a huge black beard. ⁸ And, Archbishop Spiridion is known as the fighting prelate of Janina.

An American correspondent describes the dramatic end of Italian resistance in Argyrokastron. A Fascist legion of death defended it to the last, fought until almost every man in the unit had been shot down. After they had been attacked three times, the commanding officer of the Greeks urged that ^{the} Italian Legion of Death to surrender, told them that the town ^{had been} ~~is~~ surrounded, ^{for them} no chance to escape. The [^]Italians answered him with a salvo of fire from the light artillery in the fortress. After that they fought like mad men, though the Greeks entered the town from three sides.

And another correspondent says that the entry into Argyrokastron would have been a feat of itself even without the

defense of that legion of death. The rain had been pouring in torrents and washed away parts of the road, including important bridges. But the Greek troops drove ahead regardless. Where the bridges were washed away they forded the river breast high.

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It is also reported that Italian soldiers who were taken prisoner told the Greeks that ^{Valona,} the Albanian port opposite Brindisi ~~is now~~ ^{is now} ~~was just~~ crowded with wounded. Many of them ~~are~~ lying on the docks waiting for hospital ships to take them back to Italy.

In addition to that, the docks are choked with munitions because the Greek and British bombers have completely disorganized Italian transport service.

A dispatch from Jugoslavia ^{states} ~~reports~~ that Italian soldiers fleeing north along the coast from Porto Edda and Argyrokastron were ambushed by eight hundred Albanian rebels.

There's rebellion against the Italians throughout Albania and the Greeks are now advancing farther north.

^{Rome states} ~~There's a report from Rome~~ that ~~Duce~~ Mussolini ^{in person} ~~will~~ ^{will} ~~going to~~ make a tour of inspection of the Italian front.

ITALY

Here's the official explanation of Mussolini's ^{big} shake-up
in the Italian high command.~ A special communication was put out
in Rome today on the subject, and that of itself was rather unusual.
Italy knew she had difficult moments in store when she entered the
present war. ^{So} goes the explanation. But then it adds:- "Those who
find in the changes of the high command ~~the~~ symptoms of lack of
harmony and possible delays and catastrophes, are wrong. ^{That} ~~those~~
^{would be} ~~people are making~~ the same mistakes ^{some} ~~as were~~ made during the
Ethiopian campaign." So says that official Italian explanation.

Then it goes on that as for talk of delays, the changes
will have the contrary result. ^{And that there is} ~~There is positively~~ no lack of harmony
in Italy's war machine. ^{So} they say.

EGYPT

For some time the Italians have formidably outnumbered the British on the North African Front. For months Mussolini's General Graziani has been encamped in a strong position at Sidi Barrani, some sixty miles east of the Italian frontier in Libya. For all those months a major engagement has been expected almost any day, since it was known that not only did Graziani have a strong force but that they had been reinforced by German bombers and other mechanized equipment.

Today it came. Cairo announces that advance British forces in the western desert had made contact with Italian troops over a broad front. And the British high command added that there was an encounter south of Sidi Barrani when the British captured some hundreds of Italians, which implies fighting on quite a large scale. Later the report was corrected. Not hundreds taken prisoner -- thousandes.

Observers interpret this as significant since it comes so soon after the Italian defeats in Albania. They believe it was intended as an action to test the morale of the Fascist fighters in Africa.

A still later communique from the British Middle East high command reports that the commanding general of one Italian division was killed and that his second in command ~~was~~ captured.

R.A.F.

Many of the submarine raids on British convoys have started from the French harbor of Bordeaux. ^{And that} ~~It~~ presented a new and serious problem for the British Admiralty. Not only Bordeaux but Brest and Lorient ^{had become} ~~were~~ submarine bases. So the Royal Air Force went out to tackle that new phase of the blockade ^{just} as they did the ^(threatened) ~~protective~~ invasion of Britain. So says the British Ministry of Information.

While the Nazis were pouring a rain of eighty thousand bombs on London, the R.A.F. attacked Bordeaux and Brest. They started big fires in both French ports and at Lorient they touched off what were described as great blue-flash-explosions. And the British also delivered a violent raid on Dusseldorf, center of Germany's big industrial region. Three large fires and many small ones were observed.

The Nazis claim that last night they had set off giant blazes in London which blended into one fiery sea. But the British declare it wasn't as bad as all that, though it was one of the most savage attacks of the war, a raid which lasted eight hours. Today, however, the weather fought on the side of the British and London

had a ^{rest} ~~respite~~

NAVAL BATTLE

A naval battle in the South Atlantic, that's the rumor along the Eastern shores of South America. Montevideo, capital of Uruguay, it is reported definitely that two British warships, H.M.S. ENTERPRISE and H.M.S. WARSPITE have been combing South American waters for that Nazi raider which attacked the British auxiliary cruiser, the liner CARNARVON CASTLE. One report has it that they've caught up with her and that the battle is now going on.

Then there's excitement along the South coast of Cuba. A submarine was espied in those waters, a submarine whose nationality could not be identified. She was reported some three hundred miles east of the Isle of Pines, where the British cruiser Diomedes captured a German freighter yesterday.

MATSUOKA

An interview with Yosuke Matsuoka, Foreign Minister of His Imperial Majesty, the ^{Mikado}~~Mikado~~ of Japan! He made it a little clearer just what his country's position is in relation to the Axis, and also to the United States. It is true, said Matsuoka, that if we enter the war on the side of Great Britain, Japan will have to join in on the side of the Axis. But only if we get into the fight as an aggressor.

Of course that leaves a pretty wide margin. Just what constitutes an aggressor these days? In this case it would have to be decided by agreement between Germany, Italy and Japan. In other words, if Germany and Italy complained that the United States was an aggressor, the Japanese government would have to agree before joining them. And of course that leave a loophole through which you could drive a tank.

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Matsuoka ~~added that he hoped~~ ^{hopes} such a case ~~would~~ ^{will} not arise, in fact such a hope is the very object of the agreement ~~between~~ ^{with} Germany and Italy. Then he added ~~■~~ something else interesting, and he emphasized it: "If America takes part in the war, there's nothing that obliges Japan to declare war immediately."

Matsuoka told the newspapermen ^{also} he hoped the new Japanese
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Ambassador, Admiral Nomura, would be able to improve the relations
between the United States and Japan. At the same time, he made it
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clear that the Japanese government is not on its knees, and not
in any humble mood. It will not modify its policy in China in the
slightest degree.

Matsuoka concluded by saying: "If we fight it will be
awfully foolish of us both."

QUEZON

President Quezon of the Philippine Islands is annoyed with Uncle Sam's High Commissioner, Francis B. Sayre. The Commissioner made the statement recently that the President of the United States had the power to disapprove any amendments to the Philippine

Constitution. ~~When he said this,~~ President Quezon was ^{ill at the} ~~sick in bed.~~

time
But as soon as he learned of ^{that statement} ~~it~~ he jumped out of ~~his sick~~ bed,

sent out a hurry call for the newspapermen, and tore into the High Commissioner. He started by saying that he was not going to beat around the bush. Then he said that it wasn't fair for High Commissioner Sayre to make use of press conferences to express his opposition to bills that were pending in the Philippine Assembly. As for the statement made by Sayre about the President's power to disapprove amendments, President Quezon pointed out that Mr. Roosevelt had, on the contrary, approved four constitutional amendments recently adopted.

WINDSOR

The police at Miami are ~~girding their loins and~~ mustering all their forces; ~~all this~~ ^{not} for a riot ~~or~~ a revolution, but to greet British royalty. H.R.H. the Duke and Dutchess of Windsor will arrive at the Florida resort tomorrow morning at nine o'clock. They're coming aboard the yacht SOUTHERN CROSS, owned by ^{the} a Swedish multimillionaire. ^{Axel Wenner Gren,} The visit is unofficial, nothing to do with His Royal Highness's job as Governor of the Bahamas. It's all on account of the Duchess's teeth. She is to go to a Miami hospital to undergo a major operation on her face. It'll be the Duke's first visit in sixteen years, and, curiously enough, he will land on the fourth anniversary of the day he abdicated as King and Emperor. Though the Duke has asked his visit to be considered absolutely private, the Miami cops expect a huge crowd at the dock tomorrow when Their Royal Highnesses arrive.

PLANE

A new type of war plane for Uncle Sam's army, better, faster, more fitted for fighting in the air! That's the news from one of the eastern plane factories.

Evidently this ~~news~~ ^{the} is designed to offset information brought back from Great Britain by Ralph Ingersoll, the editor of P.M. ~~You may recall that~~ Ingersoll startled ^{some of us by} ~~the country by~~ reporting that the planes we've been delivering to the British have been of no use to them in their air battles against the Nazis. They've been ~~good~~ ^{and some sent} only for training, ~~though many of them were sent to the Middle East,~~ ^{Egypt.}

There was considerable criticism of Ingersoll for publishing the statement that the American fighter planes we've sent to England are not fighting. Today P.M. publishes an article by Major Alexander ^{Seversky} ~~Sivorsky~~, the warplane designer, the air man who won the Harmon Trophy in NineteenThirty-Nine. ^{Seversky} ~~Sivorsky~~ says Ingersoll was ~~quite~~ right, that the information he brought back from England was no news to aviation specialists in this country, and that, as he puts it, "it's high time we stopped bragging about our aeronautical superiority."

The type of plane which is reported today is described as a pursuit interceptor, extremely fast, a single engine job with thirty and fifty calibre wing guns, fragmentation bombs and other special equipment. The nature of the other special equipment is not being divulged. This pursuit interceptor has a supercharger and is built for fighting high up in the air where the bombing planes go to escape the Archies.

HAVEN

A refuge in the Virgin Islands for refugees from the European War! ~~That~~ Sounds extraordinary, but, it's a serious proposal being seriously considered ⁱⁿ ~~by government tycoons in~~ Washington. The suggestion first came from the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. The lawmakers ~~down~~ there adopted a resolution inviting the refugees. Thereupon several private relief organizations took it up, and now it's being mulled over by the horned owls of the departments of State, Justice and the Interior.

BRIDGE

5872

A bomb threat against the great Triborough Bridge in New York! As its name connotes, that ^{immense} ~~great~~ bridge connects three of Father Knickerbocker's boroughs - Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens. People driving over ^{it} ~~that great bridge~~ today were astounded to find themselves stopped by motorcycle patrolmen, who were checking up every motorist. ~~going across~~ As for pedestrians, not a single one was allowed on the bridge, ^{all} ~~the~~ footwalks closed. In addition, ~~to that~~, every inch of that huge steel structure was inspected from the ground up. And into the bargain a big boat of Uncle Sam's Coast Guard patrolled New York's East River beneath the Triborough Bridge.

The explanation for all this is that somebody had thrown out a warning that the bridge was to be bombed. The warning came to a newspaper and was anonymous.

WEATHER

Another cold spell coming. Uncle Sam has ordered storm warnings hoisted at every port on the Great Lakes, and the weather experts say more winter is heading East. So Hugh let's get out our skis and skates.