

L.J. - Suroco. Thursday, April 17, 1941.

GREECE

The Battle of Greece is shrouded by censorship tonight, but several clear facts are apparent. The motorized drive of the Germans is cutting into the center of the Allied line, and pushing it back. The defensive front of the British and ~~the~~ Greeks, extended in a straight line across the peninsula ^{west} from Mt. Olympus to southern Albania. But now it's bent southward, curving down toward the center of Greece. The fighting is violent, the Nazis are attacking with a huge amount of mechanized power, ~~the~~ defense, hard and tenacious. Reports from Ahtens today told that the German thrust in the middle of the line was approaching the neighborhood of the town of Kalabaka. That place is nearly ninety miles south of the Yugoslav border, from which point the German drive into Greece was launched. Kalabaka is a highly strategic ~~point,~~ a railroad terminus, ^a ~~the~~ center of communications. It is at the northern part of the plains of Thesaly, past the great barrier of mountains, so valuable for defense. If the Nazi motorized columns succeed in capturing Kalabaka, they'll be in much more level territory - favorable for the swift moves of mechanized war.

Today Athens reported the military situation by using

the word - "serious."

If the Germans, having bent the middle of the Allied line, should break through, they would threaten to outflank the British forces in the area of Mt. Olympus. And that seems to have happened.

Here's the latest:- A Greek dispatch announcing that the Germans are near Larissa -- well to the south of Mt. Olympus -- in the Plains of Thessaly.

The German advance at the center of the line also threatens the other wing of the Allied Army, the western end -- Albania. The Italians there today reported that the Greek front was collapsing. It seems indeed to be a retreat.

Here's a late bulletin from Cairo: "Informed sources predicted tonight that Greek troops will evacuate all territory which they now hold in Albania."

The Yugoslav forces to the north continue to disintegrate. Berlin today reports that one Yugoslav army has surrendered.

In North Africa? - Status quo. Tobruk under siege, is still resisting. The British there are being reenforced by sea. At the spearhead driven into Egypt, The Empire forces are still holding

firm. The news today tells of the British fleet bombarding a key fort held by the Germans and Italians in that area -- naval guns hurling giant shells with destructive effect.

It is impossible to make a guess of what's going to happen there - whether the Axis forces will be able to drive on again and menace the Suez Canal.

AIR RAID

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Up to this minute there's no answer to the question, "Is Berlin being bombed tonight?" That query ^{was} ~~has been~~ powerfully suggested by the news from London today. The British demand rose high and wrathful - "Bomb Berlin, bomb Berlin tonight!" Londoners ~~cried~~ ^{cried} for vengeance, get even for the terror and the horror that London sustained last night - an eye for an eye, a bomb for a bomb.

Today ^{the British capital} ~~London~~ cleared away its ruins, after what is described as the most savage and destructive air raid of the war.

As London ^{removed} ~~cleared~~ its debris, legends appeared chalked on walls and on sidewalks. Inscriptions reading - "Bomb Berlin tonight. Show them that we can murder, too."

Last night's ^{raid as} ~~Berlin raid~~ was one of vengeance. This was specifically stated by the Nazi high command - ~~it was~~ a reprisal for the British sky attack on Berlin, ^{on} April Ninth. That was the bombing which blasted the heart of Berlin and destroyed Hitler's big opera house. Hit and hit back, reprisals - ^{such is the} ~~that's the~~ terrifying aspect ~~which~~ the air war takes. Today the German high command made this statement:- "In future, every British air raid on residential quarters in Germany will be avenged on an increasing scale."

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Last night, for the first time, the bombing of London took a toll of distinguished persons. Lord and Lady Stamp were killed - he ~~was~~ an economist of worldwide fame. Moreover, it is feared that their son, the Honorable ~~W.~~ Carlyle Stamp, lost his life also. Another member of the British titled nobility perished, Lord Auckland. Before the fall of France he was assistant to the British Air Attache in Paris. One of the injured was the Acting United States Consul General in London. A bomb exploded near his apartment, and he was cut by flying glass.

United States Ambassador Winant was in the thick of the bombing. At dawn he made a tour of the blasted sections of the West End - and the raid was still going on. The Nazi bombers swarmed over the British capital all night, from dusk to daybreak. Ambassador Winant said today that as he went through the devastated streets, some of the ~~bombs~~ bombs fell so near that he could hear, what he called - "that unpleasant whistle." He makes a comment that aptly summarizes ~~it,~~ "that worst of ordeals for London." The Ambassador says he now knows the real meaning of the phrase - "London can take it."

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Germany too was being bombed last night - the great port of Bremen. The R.A.F. struck for five hours.

This afternoon the R.A.F. turned its attention to the Nazi invasion ports on the French coast. Across the Straits of Dover, the explosions were so violent that buildings shook even on the British coast.

SHIPS

Four American ^{ships} ~~cargo vessels~~ are being transferred to the British. This has just been announced by the Maritime Commission in Washington. The four freighters have been acquired by the Commission and are being transferred under the Lend-Lease Act. They'll sail under the British flag and be manned by British crews.

VINSON

The House Naval Affairs Committee today approved of the
Vinson Bill. ^{And} That's important because the Vinson Bill provides
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for compulsory mediation in labor troubles that effect national
defense. The Committee action today represents the first step toward
legislation to stop strikes.

COAL

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In the soft coal strike an agreement has been reached between the Union and the Northern Mine Owners. The settlement calls for a basic wage of seven dollars a day, ~~and effects two hundred and fifty thousand of the four hundred thousand miners ~~six~~ on strike.~~ The Southern Miners are still to be heard from. They walked out on ~~a~~ ^{the} negotiation because they objected to the union demand that the wage scales be the same in the South as in the North. Today John L. Lewis President of the United Mine Workers, sent an invitation to the Southern Operators. He asked them to return ^{to the} ~~into~~ negotiations.

Lewis acted at the request of the government, ~~and now they're waiting~~

~~for a reply.~~ The southerners reply that they will meet him - in Washington.

TAXES

Everybody is familiar with one fact about the national defense program, lend-lease, aid to Britain, arsenal of democracy. We're going to pay higher taxes. How much higher? Today Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau gave us a few hints. To a conference of congressional leaders, the Secretary presented a program of levying new taxes to the amount of three billion and four hundred and forty-four million dollars. That's the plan which the Administration is placing before Congress.

The Morgenthau reasonings on taxation are as follows:

During the coming fiscal year, the government is going to spend nineteen billion dollars. The Secretary proposes that one-third of this shall be paid by borrowing - added to the national debt. Two-thirds - to be raised by taxation, or - between twelve and thirteen billions. The present taxes will bring in between nine and ten billion. That leaves a remainder of three and four billion - to be derived from new taxes. "If this program works out," said Secretary Morgenthau, "we will increase taxation by one-third. The ideal way to do this," he added, "would be to have each individual and business pay a third more taxes than they pay now."

Statistics show that right now the federal taxes come ~~xx~~

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to an average of seventy-one dollars and two cents per year for every individual in ^{the} ~~this~~ country - the entire hundred and thirty million of us. The increase proposed would raise this to ninety-seven dollars and fifty-one cents - that amount of federal taxation for each man, woman and child in the country. Of course, the figure is a great deal higher for those who actually pay. Moreover, the sum does not include state and municipal taxes.

Secretary Morgenthau did not disclose to the newspapermen the plans that are being made for imposing the new taxation. Congressional leaders who attended the conference indicate that the method most favorably considered, is to raise the present tax rates all along the line - boosts of from twenty-five to fifty per cent. Income tax - going up. Also - exemptions lowered. There's talk of a flat direct tax on salaries, in addition to the regular income tax, each one to contribute a certain proportion of his weekly earnings. But the lawmakers hope to avoid anything so drastic as that. They also hope to avoid a sales tax, which is likewise under discussion.

Whatever their method may be, the tax increase ^{pro} ~~por~~ posed by Secretary Morgenthau today would be the largest program of

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taxation in American history - three billion and four hundred
and forty-four million dollars in new levies. ^{FF} The Secretary
said that when he explained it to the congressional leaders -
their reaction was unanimously favorable. ^{FF} He didn't mention
the reaction of the taxpayers!

MORALE

The cost of aid to Britain was discussed today by William Batt, Deputy Director of Defense Production. We all know that seven billion dollars have been appropriated. But that won't be nearly enough, declares the Deputy Defense Director. He addressed a conference called by prominent government officials to consider the subject of national morale. Apparently we're going to need plenty of that national morale. For the Deputy Defense Director spoke about aid to Britain as follows:- "Many of us have been naive about the cost and size of the job," he declared, and added: "I don't hesitate to say that the seven billion dollars will be but a small part of the aid we will eventually furnish Britain."

5 } President Roosevelt sent a message to the conference on morale, in which he called for a betterment of the conditions of life in this nation. Also - for what he described in these words:- "The kind of nationwide team work which is of prime essential for the maintenance of national morale."

The First Lady, too, had words to speak on these and kindred subjects - and wise words they were. (In a press conference at Buffalo,) Mrs. Roosevelt spoke of the part that women should play

in national defense. What can the women do to serve their country in this crisis of war? They can learn to cook better, said the First Lady. Now there's an idea. We all want to defend^d our homes, and the better the cooking in the home, the more we want to defend it. Mrs. Roosevelt, in emphasizing the national defense angle of the art that is performed at the kitchen stove, pointed to the fact that many ~~rejections~~^{rejections} in the draft are caused by bad teeth. Bad teeth, she reasoned, are caused by poor nutrition. "This means," she declared, "that many women lack the knowledge of nutrition, don't know how to cook." As for national defense, the ladies can best fight the forces of totalitarianism by seeing that the gravy is not burned and that the hash is at least edible. "It's more important for women," said the hostess of the White House, "than learning how to drive an ambulance." So you see the idea, girls. First you sing the "Star Spangled Banner", and then you get busy and cook a good meal.

CENSORSHIP

Today an assurance was given -- that free speech is safe.

The one who issued the guarantee was the President of the United States. In Washington the Society of Newspaper Editors is holding its annual meeting, and prominent in the discussion is the question of the effect of the war-time emergency upon the dissemination of the news. There has been talk of possible censorship, the curbing of free expression. So what about it?

The President today sent a formal statement to the Society of Newspaper Editors in which he told them that full freedom of speech will be maintained, freedom of the press, freedom of radio - save in such cases as concern secrets of military importance. The President used these words:- "The suppression of opinion and censorship of news," said he, "are among the mortal weapons the dictators direct against their own peoples -- and direct against the world. So far as I am concerned," he declared, "there will be no control of news -- unless it be of vital military information."

That presidential pronouncement will be of the deepest interest of every American -- particularly those concerned with press and radio. It happens that here in the studio with me is the Editor of a publication dealing with radio. He's Martin Lewis, Executive

Editor of Movie-Radio Guide Magazine. And I'll ask him for a word of comment concerning today's free speech proclamation. What is your slant on it, Editor Lewis?

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MARTIN LEWIS: - I'd like to point out one angle, Lowell. The British, under the guns, preserve their traditional freedom of speech. So why shouldn't we preserve ours? The morale of Britain is quite as good as that of Nazi Germany -- better. In fact, one of Britain's best hopes of victory is that British morale with freedom of speech, will outlast the morale of Germany under Nazi suppression.

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L.T.:- That's a point. It would indicate that suppression and censorship would not strengthn our morale -- but would weaken it.

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MARTIN LEWIS:- By the way, Lowell, here's something I mustn't forget.

It's the reason I'm here. Movie-Radio Guide Magazine has just conducted its eighth annual listener poll to determine radio's outstanding personalities and program. I am very happy to announce to you, Lowell, ~~and~~ and to your listeners - that you were again voted the most popular commentator on the air. Therefore, in behalf of the editors of Movie-Radio Guide Magazine and your millions of radio listeners, I want to present to you this trophy. I hope it will

constantly remind you of the innumerable friends who enjoy your newscasts.

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L.T.:- Thanks a lot, Martin, for this handsome statue. I sure like to see you every year. I hope you don't skip any years. And my Blue Sunoco Sponsors no doubt hope the same. Here's Hugh James with a message from them.