

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The most portentous news tonight concerns a prophecy. That a major battle will soon occur in the Balkans. The first head-on collision on land of the British and Nazis in nine months - in fact since the evacuation of Dunkirk.

Such is tonight's report from Istanbul. The utmost excitement reigns on the shores of the Bosphorus and throughout the Balkan peninsula. Two bristling armies are facing each other across the Greco-Bulgarian frontier. Detachments from Britain's victorious Army of the Nile have been pouring into Greece in a steady stream. The gossip in Istanbul is that Sir Archibald Wavell has now thrown in nearly two hundred thousand men - all ready for the Nazi ~~xxxxxxx~~ assault. But Hitler's generals have nearly twice as many, somewhere in the neighborhood of three hundred and fifty thousand.

Messages from Bulgaria and Istanbul report that the Nazis are rushing more and more divisions into Bulgaria.

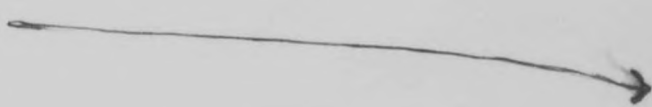
As for the strategy, the experts in Istanbul are predicting that the British will hold the defensive, leave it up to the Nazis to make the first move.

The British are not in any vainglorious mood. Against such overwhelming numbers, they don't seriously expect to hold the line permanently - their present line north of Salonika.

That's the story from Istanbul, and it's all just conjecture. The word being that Wavell has prepared a strong short line of defense in the Peloponnesus, on which he can fall back if necessary.

The strategy of the British generals in Greece has been helped mightily by the latest blows with which the Army of the Nile has been smashing up Mussolini's African empire which is fast becoming a thing of the past, that empire of the Black Shirt Junior Fuehrer.

The latest from Cairo is that Sir Archibald Wavell's armies took back Berbera, the capital of British Somaliland, which the Fascists captured with such a flourish of trumpets last fall. The British also took by assault



strategic positions ~~on~~ the heights overwhelming Keren and Eritrea.

H *swooped on*
The British ~~took~~ Berbera from the sea, the landing party covered
x *q*
by heavy guns from ~~H~~^{*TP*}is Majesty's men-o-war. Such Italian forces
as are left in east Africa now are virtually surrounded, since the
waters off the coast of Eritrea have been mined and they can't
get away by sea. Meanwhile, the Royal Air Force has been hammering
away at Tripoli, the last big African city to remain in Italian
hands.

of course
The Italians in Ethiopia are ~~also~~ in a tough spot.

French
The only way they can escape is by way of Djibouti, the seaport
— or by air.
of French Somaliland. As the British now have Berbera, which is
only a hundred and sixty miles from Djibouti, the Italians are
virtually cut off in that direction. A British column is already
advancing into Ethiopia from Berbera.

GERMANY

President Roosevelt's broadcast of Saturday night brought down a storm of Nazi fury. ^{Not direct from} ~~It comes not from any~~ government officials but from the German ^{press. And} ~~newspapers. But the~~ officials declare that the newspapers were authorized to speak for the government. ^{P.W. are saying 'is} ~~And what they said was~~ the most virulent outbreak yet against the United States. The bell-wether of the flock was the newspaper owned by Propaganda Minister Goebbels, which proclaimed in screaming headlines that Roosevelt in that Saturday speech behaved like a bull in a China shop. To ^{this} ~~that~~ the Goebbels paper added that Mr. Roosevelt had purchased his third presidential term with false promises. For the rest, there's nothing new in those attacks, just the same old Nazi verbiage about Jews and plutocracy and ^{so on.} ~~all~~ that ~~sort of~~ hop-scotch.

49

Just by way of counter-balance, here's one bit of American comment on ~~Fuehrer~~ Hitler's broadcast of yesterday. The Fuehrer, offering an alibi for the omelets laid by Mussolini, ^{He} said the Italians had been left to bear the brunt of the British attacks throughout the winter. But he didn't give the unfortunate Italians any good reason for they're having been made the goats.

TP

American strategists are pointing out that Hitler allowed the forces of the Axis to be split, allowed Italy to suffer terrific losses and even worse defeats than in the Battle of Caporeto.

HOTTELET FOLLOW GERMANY

50
Meanwhile, the Nazis are still holding Richard C. Hottelet of the Berlin Bureau of the United Press. He is reported to be accused of being a spy, "espionage for a foreign power", is the way the German official news agency puts it. But neither the United Press nor the United States Embassy is permitted to talk to Hottelet. He's held incommunicado in one of the dungeons of the Gestapo headquarters and the Lord only knows what is being done to him.

the U.P. man was
The Gestapo reports that ~~he's~~ not arrested for anything he did for the United Press, nothing to do with his newspaper work. The charge against him is connected entirely with his private activities.

BREMEN

Fire aboard the BREMEN, the great German luxury liner.

It's officially admitted in Berlin. The news was first given out as emanating from the German capital but later it was attributed to a Bremerhaven dateline. So the inference is that the BREMEN is afire in the harbor at Bremen.

There is no definite information as to the origin or cause of the blaze. Presumably it was done by bombers of the British Royal Air Force; but that isn't admitted in Germany.

The Nazis do acknowledge that the fire is of considerable magnitude.

There was a good deal of excitement about the BREMEN over a year ago when she escaped the British patrol and made a dash from New York to Murmansk on the Arctic coast. Later, she went creeping down through Norwegian waters, to her home port in Germany. And now she's a furnace of flame.

SHAW

George Bernard Shaw ~~today is quite aged and~~ long since took a vow of silence. But every now and then something happens that makes the old humorist boil over with indignation. And for real ^{100%} ~~two-fisted~~ vituperation, there is nobody like a humorist.

Shaw's latest outburst is at the expense of the British Broadcasting Corporation. Several radio artists announced their support of the Peoples Peace Convention, a leftist affair. The B.B.C. put them on the blacklist, informed them they would not be allowed to broadcast from anywhere on British soil unless they withdrew their support of that leftist convention.

52
A question was asked about it in the House of Commons last week. Alfred Duff Cooper, Minister of Information, said he had asked the governors of the British Broadcasting Corporation to reconsider their action. Then came a protest by trades unions, associations of tenants, and other groups. And today ~~came~~ a blast from G.B.S. "Here we are," he wrote, "in the thick of a war in which we claim to be fighting as the champions of western democracy." Then he continued:- "Daily we throw into the teeth of Germany and

Italy the reproach that they have abolished the rights of public meeting and free speech." To which he added:- "And this is the moment selected by the B.B.C. to give to the world an exhibition of British Naziism gone mad - just on top of the suppression of a newspaper. We are liquidating our looters," added Shaw, "when shall we learn to liquidate our fools?"

His beard may be white, but his anger and his language is still red hot - at times when he wants to let go.

PEPPER

Uncle Sam and Canada will have to cooperate in the future, cooperate to make democracy work. So said Senator ~~Claude~~ Pepper of Florida to the Canadian Club at Toronto today. If we want to save democracy, we'll have to make it work first in our own countries; then ~~on the continent.~~ *send it back to Europe.*

53 { The Florida Senator ~~then~~ recalled that a similar proposal had been made more than a hundred years ago by the great Venezuelan liberator, Simon Bolivar ^{who} ~~he~~ urged that there should be a congress of the American nations. Of course that proposal never got to first base because it was too far ahead of its time, said Pepper. But now, as the United States and Canada clasp hands across ~~the~~ almost imaginary frontier, the dream of Simon Bolivar ^{is} ~~has~~ come to a substantial reality.— *in part.*

KNUDSEN

William S. Knudsen, the Chief of Production, told the country tonight what we're going to have to do. In order to make delivery of weapons that are so sorely needed both here and ^a broad, we'll have to increase the number of man-hours that we work by sixty per cent. ~~xx~~ The rate at ~~xxxx~~ which our factories are going now, represents some eighteen billions man-hours a year.

Meanwhile, his Co-Director, Sidney ^{Hillman} Hillman, was talking to a gathering of labor leaders. ~~He~~ [^] urged on them the need for more trained men to work in the factories.

STRIKES

54
Strikes are holding up essential defense jobs at no fewer than thirty factories. That's the total of a survey made by the United Press. ^{Also —} Strikes are increasing in number all along the line. ~~To be sure,~~ The figure this morning was thirty-one, and just one of them has been settled in the course of the day. But the picture ^{stands at} ~~remains that there are~~ ^{strikes, all} thirty ~~strikes, all of them~~ on national defense projects. The figure sharks ~~have~~ estimated that three million, five hundred thousand man-hours of labor are being lost every week through labor disputes. Some of ^{these} ~~them~~ have been in progress ever since early in February.

At Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, an important government order was moved only because the foremen of a plant took off their coats and went to work themselves with their own hands, under police protection. A large quantity of vanadium products had been finished, all ready to be shipped to several tool-making ^{factories} ~~plants~~ which could not proceed without that important consignment. Sidney Hillman, Associate Director of the Office of Production Management, appealed to the heads of the local C.I.O. union, to allow the stuff to be

23' moved. But that appeal was ignored. So seventeen foremen and others who were white collar men, went into the plant Saturday night, escorted by Pennsylvania state troopers, ^{They} and are still ^{there,} ~~in that factory~~ eating and sleeping under police protection until the stuff is shipped.

President Roosevelt is working on the ^[strike] problem. It is believed that he'll issue an executive order within the next few hours, establishing a mediation board.

WRECK

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is working on that train wreck in western Pennsylvania. The G-men are on the job because the tycoons of the Pennsylvania Railroad charge that it was brought about by sabotage.

A pretty deadly sabotage, if that is correct. Tonight we know that five ~~people~~ were killed, a hundred and fourteen injured, and ~~Seventy-three of these~~ are still in hospitals.

STORM

Still more harrowing tales are coming from that spring blizzard which paralyzed northern Minnesota and the Dakotas. One of the snow plow crews opening up a highway encountered an unexpected obstruction. It was a motor car, completely buried by a drift. Not far away, lying beside the highway, were the frozen bodies of a man and two women, a farmer, his wife and their sixteen year old daughter. Obviously they had left their car, tried to dash to a farmhouse for shelter, and foundered in the deep snow before they could go more than a few paces. Again, near the town of Michigan in North Dakota, the body of a farmer was found frozen between his house and his barn.

That ferocious eighty-five mile an hour gale struck without any warning whatsoever. Rescue workers believe that some of the victims were suffocated by the wind. But most of them were frozen to death while trying to make their way to shelter.

Four more bodies were found in North Dakota and Minnesota today, bringing the death roll up to fifty-nine. And at least four other people are missing. At one point in Minnesota the

thermometer went down to seventeen below zero, with snowdrifts eight feet deep in many places.

57
Besides all these casualties, ^{eight men and} ~~nine people including~~ one woman, are afloat on the icy waves of Lake Superior, afloat on a huge ice floe. When that floe broke loose from the main pack, there were twenty-two people aboard it. Seven men and one woman were swept ashore today near Skanee, Michigan, after spending almost twenty-four hours on that floe. Another party of five men were rescued at the Huron River Point.

The Weather Bureau says the cold isn't going to last long. There's a body of warm air moving eastward from the Rocky Mountains. The middlewest already felt relief today.

GORILLA

In case you're thinking of adopting a pet gorilla, all it will cost you will be seventeen thousand dollars. That is, exclusive of the price. The seventeen thousand is just Uncle Sam's cut. The Ringling Circus has just found ^{this} ~~that~~ out. The big show people bought a female gorilla, Toto, to become a companion and bride to Gargantua. And today it became known that Uncle Sam's hard-hearted customs inspectors have seized Toto because the Ringling people overlooked the detail of paying entry duties. The customs duties, penalties, and so forth, will amount to twice the value of Toto, who is estimated at being worth eight thousand, five hundred dollars.

28
The process was a bit of a problem for the customs people. Having legally seized the ^{not so beautiful Miss Toto} ~~brute~~ they didn't know what to do with

her, as a course in the care and feeding of gorillas does not figure in their examination papers.

So they had to leave her ~~in~~ with her owners while the lawyers argue.

WALLACE

Vice-President Wallace today showed up at a session of the Senate with a wounded nose. Spectators wondered whether the heir-apparent of the White House had been off skiing with me or in St. Patrick's Day shennannigans somewhere - especially as both he and Senator Barkley, the Majority Leader, were wearing green carnations. They explained that they had snatched the green carnations from a bouquet on the desk of President Roosevelt in the White House.

As for that wounded nose, the Vice-President made an explanation which ought to interest all tennis players. The Vice-President was playing tennis and hit himself in the nose with his racquet.

He should become a high speed downhill ski-racer or an Iowa Torker Tokle. Hitting himself in the nose with a tennis racquet! The V.P. of the U.S.A.!

All I can say is come to my rescue, High!