

WAR

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, July 12, 1940.

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The war in the air remains the same -- frightful, though the horror and havoc is hidden behind the veil of censorship. Once again today waves of Nazi bombers swept over England, blasting far and wide. British censorship conceals whatever important devastation they may have done. The Germans claim that their air-raids are striking vitally at the heart of British war industries and communication. Today's Berlin bulletin tells of the fierce bombing of South English harbors and claims the sinking of ships. The London Admiralty admits the loss of one patrol ~~by~~ boat bombed and sunk in the English channel.

London tells of the counter attacking that the royal air force is ~~is~~ doing -- hitting at German key points in France and Belgium, smashing at the Nazi preparations for an attack on Britain. From the German side -- no word about these British attacks -- <sup>a Nazi</sup> veil of censorship.

London denies a German report that Prime Minister Churchill was injured in an air attack -- hurt when German bombs burst near him. ~~This is the British deny. They admit that~~ the Prime Minister was in the thick of things when an air raid occurred, but

wasn't touched -- in the best of health.

In the Mediterranean the Italians continue to claim success in bombing attacks on British ships. Rome tells of a British convoy blasted and ships sunk. Rome indicates that the sea and air war in the Mediterranean is developing with a thundering intensity in <sup>e</sup>~~the~~ giant struggle. <sup>H</sup> From all of this it would appear that the totalitarian powers are whipping up air action to a climax -- perhaps the climax of the now considerably delayed attempt to invade Britain.

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## CHILDREN

There is to be no further evacuation of children from Great Britain to the British Dominions and to the United States. This was announced by the London Government today. No further shiploads of youngsters are to be sent, because Great Britain has not enough ships for the task. The decision has been made in the light of the sinking of the Steamer Arandora Star last week. That was a vessel which was transporting German and Italian enemy aliens to Canada and was torpedoed by a German U-Boat -- with heavy loss of life. The British can't take a chance on having anything like that happen to shiploads of children. The Royal Navy cannot spare enough warships for an ironclad and submarine proof convoy, as the U-Boat campaign grows more intense. More than a hundred thousand children were awaiting sailing orders when the government decision was announced.

BOMB SIGHT

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Tonight the Number One American military secret is in the news - the bombsight. That mechanism for aiming bombs is described as almost miraculous in its accuracy, kept a mystery, elaborate precautions taken to prevent any foreign nation from finding out how it works. The question raised today is this - Has Nazi Germany learned the great American military secret? Is the Nazi air force <sup>already</sup> using our bomb sight?

The European manager of the Bendix Aviation Corporation thinks - yes. He arrived today from the war area, ~~and stated that he thought that Nazi warplanes were equipped with the American bomb sight.~~ He said he was amazed at the accuracy of German bombing from great heights. He told of the havoc wrought at the great Citroen automobile plant. "The planes were so high," said he, "you couldn't see them. Their accuracy was terrific. Out of all the bombs dropped, only a few fell outside the factory yard. The majority ~~of them~~ plunked right down into the factory." He concluded by saying, "It's a good possibility that the Germans have the American bomb sight."

Anything that touches upon the most valuable of American

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military secrets is something to create a stir. Army officials in Washington were immediately queried. They said they doubted the report, and they quoted General Arnold, Chief of the Air Corps. "The General says that the army has definite information that the Germans are using a very good bomb sight; ~~it's~~ something similar to the American mechanism. But it's not identical" - so says General Arnold emphatically.

LATIN-AMERICA

President Roosevelt has sent to Congress a proposal for action in the Latin-American economic field. This is the first move along the line of organizing Pan-American trade against the danger of economic penetration by Nazi Germany. The word from Washington today is, that the President is asking Congress for funds and for authority to purchase huge quantities of surplus products of Latin-America - these to be resold to Europe.

By buying up the surplus ourselves, we would control the flow of Pan-American goods to Nazi-dominated-Europe. The idea being - to keep Hitler from dictating terms to American republics that have surplus commodities which they must sell.

COMPULSORY TRAINING

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General Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, today declared himself in favor of compulsory military training - with modifications. That is, he's in favor of the present Burke-Wadsworth Conscription Bill before Congress, but thinks it should be changed somewhat. The bill provides a training period of eight months. General Marshall said eight months wasn't long enough to train a soldier. Eighteen months would be more like it. However, he added, "I should be willing to compromise with fifteen, ~~months~~, but it certainly should not be less than a year."

He also objected to the rate of pay provided in the bill - five dollars a month and expenses. That five dollar a month generosity <sup>has</sup> provoked a good deal of criticism, with people saying that men conscripted for military <sup>service</sup> ~~training~~ should get regular army pay, twenty-one dollars a month. General Marshall agrees with this. "We feel," said he, "that to pay one of these men five dollars a month and have him serve with men who receive twenty-one dollars a month, would be destructive of morale." I should think it would General. How a five dollar a month soldier would envy those twenty-one dollar a month millionaires!

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Plans are being considered for calling up the National Guard - the State soldiers, to get intensified military training. This was stated by President Roosevelt today, at the White House press conference. The President has his new Secretary of War beside him - Henry L. Stimson. He stated that he and the Secretary are going to discuss a program for mobilizing the National Guard of the various states, and put them through their paces. Here's the latest - the President has just decided to call up at once four divisions of the National Guard.



DEMOCRATS

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President Roosevelt will not go to Chicago. That's the Number One item of political news today. There has been plenty of talk that the President would make a dramatic appearance before the convention, and either accept or reject the nomination for a third term. This supposition was natural enough, based on the fact that in the case of his two previous nominations, Franklin D. Roosevelt made highly effective appearances ~~before the Democratic conventions, Nineteen Thirty-Two and Nineteen Thirty-Six.~~ This time it's different. This time of course the drama would be far more striking, if not ~~theoretical~~ <sup>theatrical</sup> - with all the suspense about a third term. But no, during the time the convention is assembling in Chicago, the President will go - well, not exactly fishing, but almost. Tomorrow and Sunday F.D.R. will take a short cruise down the Potomac. He'll spend the rest of the week at work in the White House.

This piece of news was the only important thing divulged at today's White House press conference - and a memorable press conference it was. You might call it - the last chance.

cut (The presidential get-together with the newspaper men is an important

~~feature of this administration.~~) The chief magistrate has from time to time made <sup>major</sup> ~~important~~ announcements to the nation by way of the White House press conference. Maybe he ~~modified~~ might have used this means to inform the people on the burning subject of a third term. If F.D.R. had any such idea, today was the time. For today's press conference was the last that will be held before the convention. But no - the third term still remains the nation's Number One mystery. The President evaded any questions that might give a clue. (He was asked whether he might send a message to the Democratic get-together, and various other queries were put to him about the Chicago drama of nomination. The President merely said he had no thoughts on the convention, one way or another. The only thing he vouchsafed was - he won't be there.

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In Chicago today arrived what are being called <sup>the</sup> two

commanders of the Third Term drive; ~~the two Number One~~ (strategists ~~and~~

who will direct the convention campaign for the renomination of ~~the~~

~~F.D.R. Presidents~~) They are Senator Byrnes of South Carolina and Harry

Hopkins, Secretary of Commerce. The Chicago report is that they

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have been commissioned to represent the President, have a virtual power of attorney from the White House, and they're supposed to have brought important word straight from the chief - information that <sup>Mr.</sup>~~President~~ Roosevelt will keep his third term silence until the very last minute, the last second. He won't declare himself until the nomination has been offered to him, until he ~~x~~ has actually been nominated. ~~Senator Byrnes is being prominently mentioned as a possible vice-presidential candidate. The President, is said to have asked him to take second place on the ticket.~~

In Chicago, meanwhile, Democratic chieftains are playing the familiar part of political carpenters - shaping and constructing a platform, fixing up the planks. The one plank that provokes interest, concerns - the war. The chances are that this political piece of ~~xx~~ timber will be a decided negative - no war. ~~THEXXXXXXXXX~~ The precedent that is being cited on all sides is the statement that Franklin D. Roosevelt made on Wednesday, when he submitted the defense bill to Congress. He then declared himself against this country going to war in Europe. Especially - sending

American soldiers abroad. "It was a very fine statement," Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi said today, much clearer and stronger than the Republican platform to his nation. This fits in with assumptions that the Democratic leaders in Chicago are planning to have a stronger anti-war plank than the Republicans have. The Democratic isolationists are demanding this.

TRAMMELL

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The National Broadcasting Company acquired a new President today. He's Niles Trammell, who for the past year and a half has been ~~an~~ executive Vice-President of N.B.C.

Let's see what kind of head-man the world's premier radio organization has selected. Niles Trammell began his career with R.C.A. seventeen years ago, and has been with N.B.C. for twelve years. He's forty-six years old, and nearly all of his active life has been in radio. Right up from the ranks to the top - that's the history of the new N.B.C.

President. <sup>R</sup> The retiring President, Major Lenox Lohr, goes to Chicago to become President of the <sup>great</sup> Museum of Science and Industry there. <sup>Major Lohr</sup> ~~He~~ <sup>^</sup> presided over the destinies of N.B.C. during some of the most eventful years of radio, and now takes a new and important post in the world of science.

BLUEBIRD

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I am afraid ~~that~~ there's a lack of poetic sentiment in the souls of some United States quarantine officials. They enforce the law, the letter of the law. - Okay! But, they make no concession to the more lyrical heights of emotion. In fact, I don't think those quarantine officials have any lyrical heights of ~~emotion~~ *any kind - or depths.*

Take today's story of four refugees from Europe, who arrived by ship at New York. A man, a woman, and two birds. Let us see who the man was. - Famous for many years; a legend, so long a legend that one hardly thought of him as being in the land of the living. The Belgian poet, Maurice Maeterlinck - author of "The Bluebird."

Maeterlinck is seventy-seven years old, and he arrived on our shores today, a refugee from his conquered native land. With him was his beautiful red-haired wife, Renee, an actress. To say that she is younger than the seventy-seven year old poet is to put it mildly. But now about the two birds - Madame Maeterlinck carried them in a cage. What kind of birds? Can there be any doubt? They were bluebirds. Ah, yes - poetic sentiment indeed.

With his <sup>lyrical</sup> poetic drama, ~~of~~ "The Bluebird," Maeterlinck made worldwide success. So for pets he has a pair of bluebirds.

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What has Maeterlinck to say about the tragedy that has ~~refax~~ overwhelmed Europe? He is the poet of brightness and joy - the bluebird for happiness. Today <sup>he</sup> ~~Maeterlinck~~ spoke darkly in these words:- "I am stunned. Nothing can be done. All is done. You can't think. What has happened is catastrophic. All you can do is wait. You must wait for history to clarify itself."

He said he had lost everything in the German invasion of Belgium. The only possessions he has brought with him are his two bluebirds. Yet he has means of livelihood here in America - the royalties on his play, "The Bluebird."

To all of which we feel we must exclaim - "Welcome to America, Maurice Maeterlinck, you and your actress wife and your two bluebirds." But no - that was not said today. Up came two quarantine officers ~~to the quarantine office~~ with heavy steps, those soulless fellows. They gave a welcome to Maeterlinck and Madame Maeterlinck - but not to the bluebirds. "There's a law, there's a regulation - you can't bring birds into the country." I suppose it has something

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to do with the parrot disease or the hoof and mouth ~~disease~~  
disease, or something. Those hard hearted quarantine men said  
"No", Maeterlinck's bluebirds <sup>could</sup> ~~will~~ not be admitted into the  
United States. Alas, the poet sighed sadly - but nothing could  
soften those quarantine hearts of flint. No bluebirds. So the  
melancholy Maeterlinck had to dispose of his poetic pets before  
he could get into this country. He gave them to the captain of  
the ship that brought him over. Alas, poor bluebirds!

Well, I think those quarantine men deserve an award,  
and we ought to present them with a <sup>(testimonial) - a</sup> pair of stuffed buzzards.

And Now from Blue Birds to  
Blue Sunoco - Hugh!

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