

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

HELENA, Mont., Sept. 9.—A very heartening thing has happened during our stay in Helena.

You know how you read occasionally of some fellow who has been a fugitive for 15 or 20 years, and has been leading a normal and respected life under an assumed name. And then suddenly the authorities dig him up, and, despite his 15 or 20 years of good living, haul him back and clap him into the pen for the rest of his life.

Well, they've just unearthened one of those cases out here.

Back in the fall of 1921 there was some kind of a fracas in West Virginia, and a man was shot. In December, the other man in the fracas left West Virginia and came to Montana. In January the wounded man died.

The man who came to Montana did not change his name or try to disguise himself. In fact, members of his family made trips back to West Virginia, and made no effort to conceal who they were. The man became a farmer in western Montana.

Well, the other day West Virginia, after 18 years, woke up to where this man was. So they indicted him for murder, and sent three officers out here to get him. But—

The people of Montana flocked to this man's defense. They wrote letters to the Governor; they sent delegations.

A Happy Ending

Finally a public hearing was held. Neighbors testified he was as good a citizen as anybody in his county. They told how he had raised a family of six fine children; how he had accumulated some land and cattle, and had a crop ready to harvest. A State Senator pleaded in his behalf. So did the business men.

The Governor listened. And then he decided. West Virginia could not have its man. He belonged to Montana, and here he could stay, in peace. And to top the whole thing off, and almost put a lump in your throat, the West Virginia prosecutor, instead

of being sore about the Governor's decision, made this statement:

"If I had known as much about this man as I have learned since coming out here, I would never have asked for his extradition."

New Type Speed Record

We have another interesting case, of a different nature. It is about an amateur speed record just set between Montana and Oklahoma.

A man in Great Falls received word that his mother-in-law had died in Lawton, Okla. His wife was already in Lawton, and wanted him to come to the funeral. He looked up the airline schedules and saw he couldn't get them in time by plane.

So he talked it over with his son, and they decided to drive. They left Great Falls at 10 a. m., and at 10 next morning they were in Lawton. The funeral was just starting.

The son drove all the way, while the father watched the road maps. They did not stop to sleep. They made 12 stops, of 15 minutes each, for gas and oil. The son drank two quarts of milk and ate one sandwich. His hands were blistered when they got there.

They made the 150 miles from Great Falls to Lawton at an average speed of 72 miles an hour. And on one stretch of 200 miles this side of Amarillo, Tex., their speedometer needle hung constantly at 100 miles an hour.

That is certainly a fine record for driving on the congested public highways. There should be some kind of formal recognition for their achievement. It seems to me a very appropriate reward would be about five years each in the penitentiary, for attempted homicide.

Helena used to have a very famous old tree. It stood right here in town, and back in the Vigilante days, when citizens were taking bad men into their own hands, some 20 desperadoes swung by their necks from a limb of that tree.

Wouldn't that be a museum piece for tourists to come and look at nowadays? "Hangman's Tree," they called it. I asked a friend where it was.

"Oh, that's been cut down a long time," he said. "They thought it wasn't dignified. Some preacher had it cut down."

It Seems to Me

By Heywood Broun

NEW YORK, Sept. 9.—Once upon a time five conspirators gathered together to plot the death of a man whom they all professed to hate. The largest and most volatile of the group was a chef. He suggested that cards should be dealt and that whoever received the ace of spades should undertake the responsibility of making away with the enemy. And he added, "I hope the ace comes to me because I really hate this fellow. I don't quite trust your protestations. With me it's different. He and I can't live in the same world together. Either I get him or he gets me."

The ace of spades fell to the chef, and his fellow-conspirators were delighted to learn that within two days he had managed to secure himself the piece of cook in the home of the enemy. But days went by and weeks and months and nothing happened. Accordingly, the four others waited for the cook at the back door, and reproached him for having failed to carry out his mission. "But," said the chef, "I'm doing my best. I'm serving him with pork chops and chocolate eclairs, and all sort of goodies. Consistently I'm tempting him to overload his stomach. Sooner or later this system is bound to get him."

A Case of Power Politics

Nevertheless, Soviet Russia could make a much better excuse for its pact with the Reich than any which has been furnished up to date. But it would have to be on a lower and more realistic level. All the stuff about weakening Hitler would have to be left out as arrant nonsense.

At the moment there can be no doubt that the present arrangement is advantageous to Russia. Moreover, it is fair to add that neither England, France nor Poland made any very firm or attractive offer for support. Russia is playing power politics in the

same manner as other European nations. Or, if you prefer, it has just as much right to choose isolation as America has.

As a matter of fact, most of the Hitlerite explanations have not come from Moscow, but from American Communists. This, again, seems to me to indicate that the connection between the American Communists and the party in Russia is much more slight than is popularly supposed.

Did Stalin Outsmart Himself?

Apparently Russia has been so much concerned with its internal problems that it has had only an extremely academic interest in the development of American Communism. The very fact that the Daily Worker was surprised and left on a limb by the news of the Reich-Soviet pact seems to prove that the pipeline straight from 14th St. to the Kremlin is a myth. There is no faucet here for Russian gold, and not very much Russian advice comes through.

In regard to local explanations of the pact it seems pretty obvious that the left-wing leaders were compelled to roll their own. Nobody has ever denied shrewdness to Stalin, but it is just possible that he has outsmarted himself and the national interest of Russia.

There is no reason on earth why Russia, from its own point of view, should be particularly friendly to France, England or Poland. A long and bitter war ending in stalemate would be helpful to the Soviets since it would weaken all potential foes. But a quick victory for Hitler would not help at all. A Germanized Poland would be a far more dangerous neighbor than the present state which is being born by the invading army of the Reich.

It is possible, the greatest irony of all is that while Communist Russia is in a position to sell war supplies to Nazi Germany, democratic America has declared an embargo which prevents us shipping the same sort of material to France and England. At the moment Russian ideology is not the only one which seems to have wandered into a strange bed.

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Seeks United Front

Some in the Administration feel that such speeches would have effects encouraging upon German morale, discouraging upon British and French morale. There is some desire not thus to affect morale across the Atlantic any earlier than is necessary. Mr. Roosevelt wants, no doubt, to avoid even the appearance of American disunity as long as possible.

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

NEW YORK CITY, Friday.—We had the most beautiful drive over to Westbrook, Conn., yesterday. Here and there young trees are turning red, which is a lovely color but makes my heart sink. I'd like to feel that I was going to spend most of it in the country. The prospect of the next few months, with their busy days and nights, would not be as alluring at any time as my country cottage with an open fire and the beauty of autumn to contemplate.

Just now, however, with the feeling that all of us have somewhat worried about friends who have not yet returned to this country.

Then dinner and an evening of watching up on mail and this morning we again left for New York City. We have several errands to do, but two things are really important. One is the luncheon which I am attending for the opening of the Bride's School.

I shall leave the lunch at 2:15 and dash over to Brooklyn to meet Mrs. Henry Morgenthau Jr. and two of her children who are landing on a Norwegian steamer. It was a very difficult thing for the Secretary of the Treasury, with his son Robert to leave the others in order to be back at his desk a week sooner. This will be a happy day of reunion for them and I shall certainly be glad to have all these dear friends safely home.

The people of the world, we feel it may be a long time before any of us will again feel free to spend three solid months in an environment of more or less leisure, as I do this year.

Yesterday we cooked our lunch and ate it in the woods overlooking the marshes which run in front of the Sound along the Connecticut shore. A solitary figure could be seen poling a flat-bottomed boat along the channels which run through the salt meadows.

Second, there also is the thought here that delay in calling Congress would tend to minimize the amount of hostile debate. The Administration is counting upon the overwhelming feeling that Hitler is the guilty party to have its effect through the force of public sentiment, in diminishing the strength of those opposed to repealing the arms embargo.

The longer Senators and Representatives are allowed to remain among their constituents, the more force this public sentiment will have upon them.

Practical Reasons Cited

Third, events abroad are considered likely to play in favor of the Administration during the next few weeks. Hitler's conquest of Poland, even though generally discounted in advance, still is bound to increase anxiety for the fate of Great Britain and France. Repetitions of affairs such as the Athenaeum sinking would increase American sympathy for the Allies. Fighting on the Western Front will, as time goes on, make it increasingly clear that this is to be a war of attrition, thereby emphasizing anew the importance of releasing American supplies to the British and French, and further undermining opposition to repeal of the embargo.

While it is probable that Mr. Roosevelt could even now force action through Congress, it is advantageous to his position to have it come with as small a display of opposition as is possible.

Fourth, there are practical reasons why the Neutrality Act should operate for a brief time in order that time may be had to observe its workings, note defects in either cushioning machinery that might need legislative attention, and perhaps to suggest anti-protectionist measures.

The Administration will know its own mind about such matters a few weeks hence better than it can now.

Reached Zenith in 1936

By 1936, the Communists and Socialists had become by far the largest bloc in the French Chamber, with 219 members as against the Radical Socialist and Radical Republican bloc's 110.

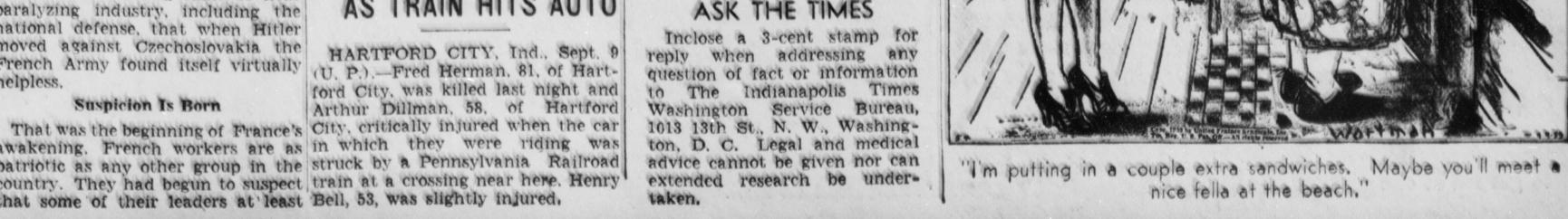
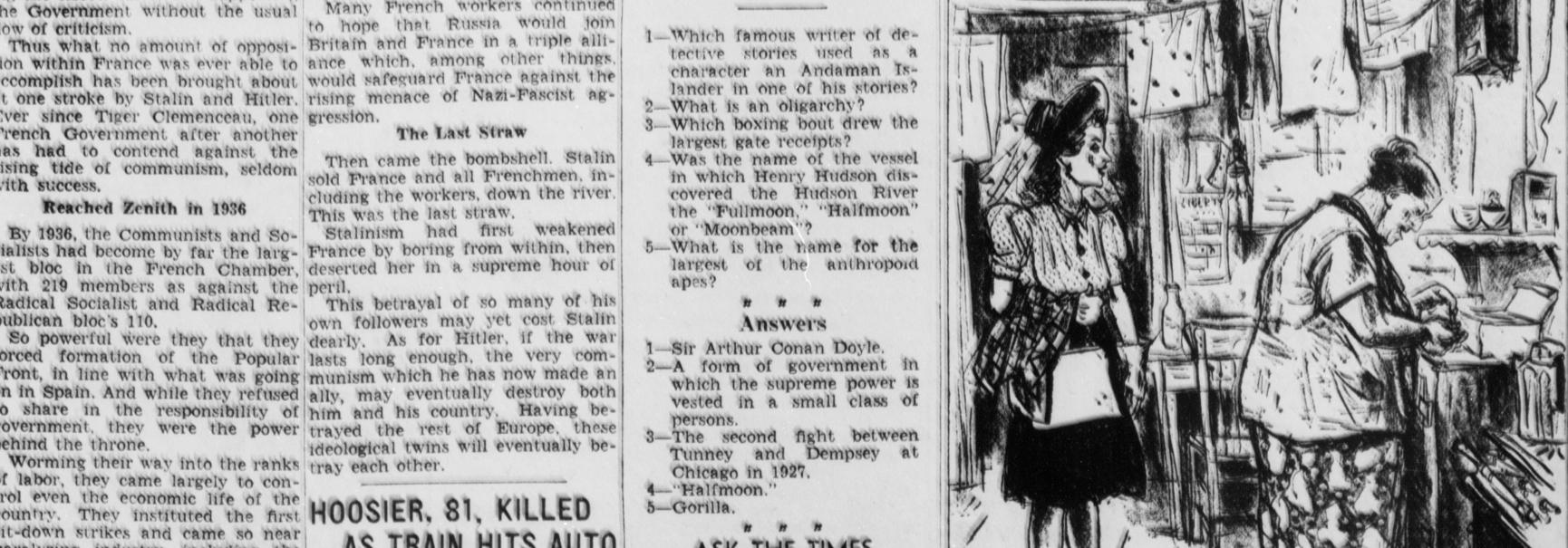
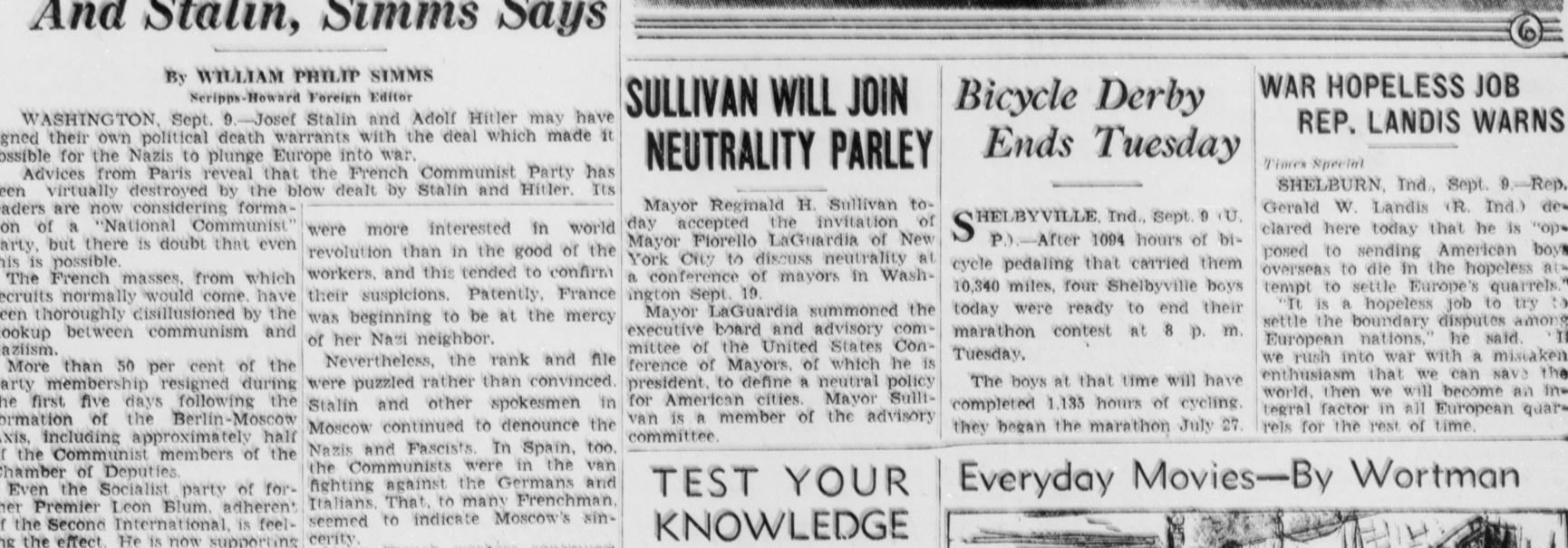
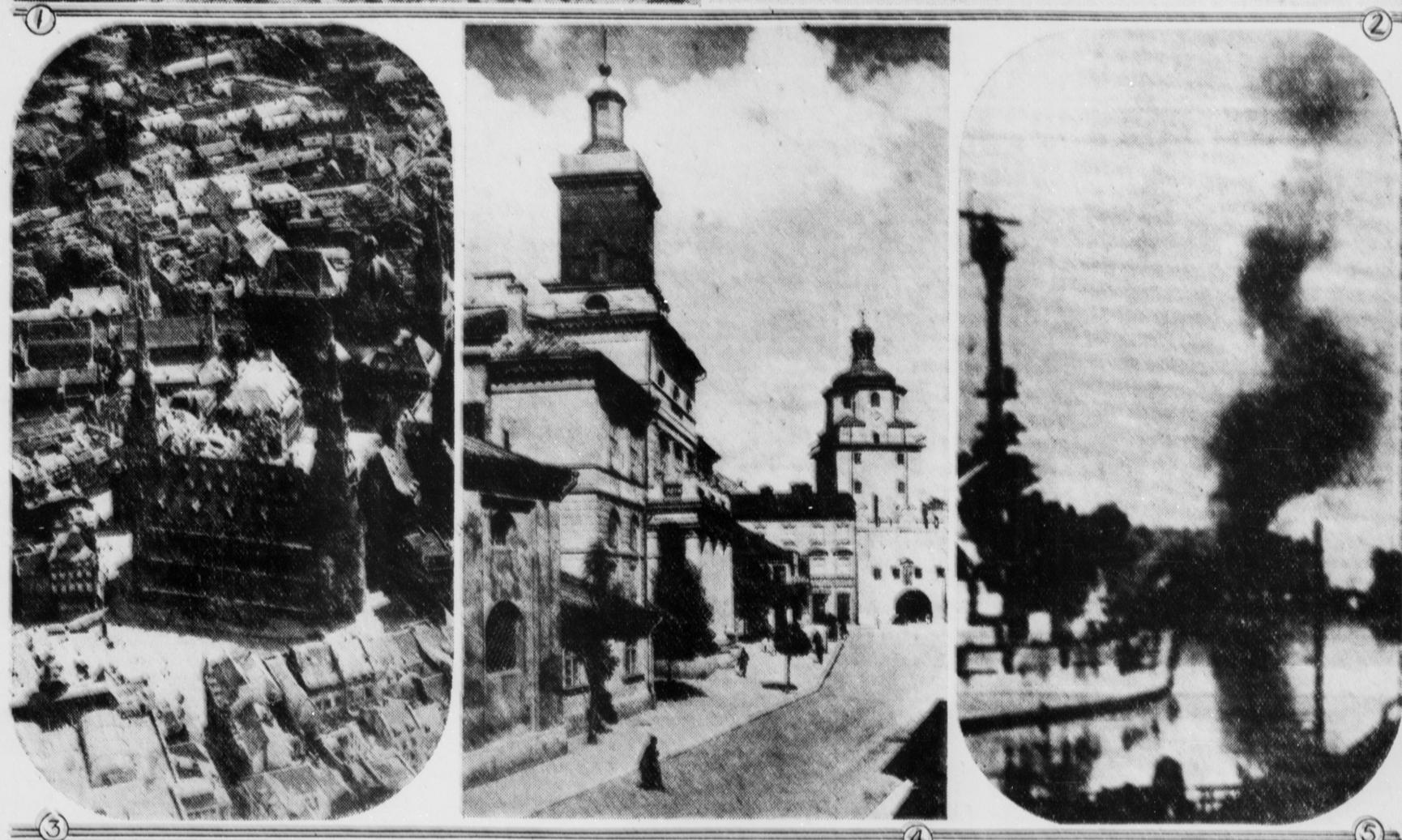
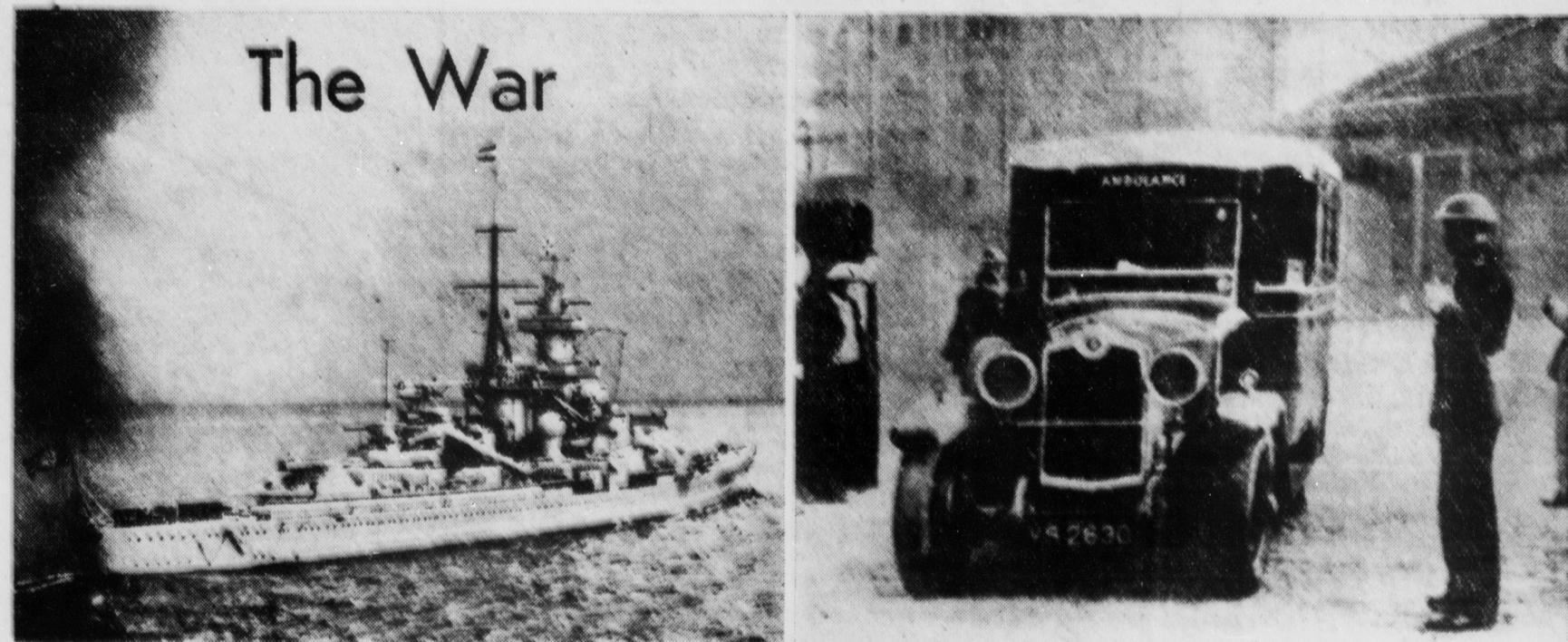
So powerful were they that they forced the formation of the Popular Front, in line with what was going on in Spain. And while they refused to share in the responsibility of government, they were the power behind the throne.

Worming their way into the ranks of labor, they came largely to control even the economic life of the country. They instituted the first sit-down strikes and came so near paralyzing industry, including the national defense, that when Hitler moved against Czechoslovakia the French Army found itself virtually

incapable of action.

That was the beginning of France's awakening. French workers are as patriotic as any other group in the country. They had begun to suspect that some of their leaders at least

The War



"I'm putting in a couple extra sandwiches. Maybe you'll meet nice fella at the beach."

Times Special

SHELBYVILLE, Ind., Sept. 9 (U. P.)—After 1094 hours of bicycle pedaling that carried them 10,340 miles, four Shelbyville boys today were ready to end their marathon contest at 8 p. m. Tuesday.

The boys at that time will have completed 1,133 hours of cycling, when they began the marathon July 27.

Mayor Reginald H. Sullivan today accepted the invitation of Mayor Pioella LaGuardia of New York City to discuss neutrality at a conference of mayors in Washington Sept. 19.

Major LaGuardia summoned the executive board and advisory committee of the United States Conference of Mayors, of which he is president, to define a neutral policy for American cities. Mayor Sullivan is a member of the advisory committee.

Nevertheless, the rank and file were puzzled rather than convinced. Stalin and other spokesmen in Moscow continued to denounce the Nazis and Fascists. In Spain, the Communists were in the van fighting against the Germans and Italians. That, to many Frenchmen and Americans, seemed to indicate Moscow's sincerity.

Many French workers continued to hope that Russia would join Britain and France in a triple alliance which, among other things, would safeguard France against the rising tide of communism, seldom with success.

The Last Straw

Then came the bombshell. Stalin sold France and all Frenchmen, including the workers, down the river. This was the last straw.

Stalinism had first weakened France by baying from within, then deserted her in a supreme hour of peril.

This betrayal of so many of his own followers may yet cost Stalin dearly. As for Hitler, if the war lasts long enough, the very communism which he has now made an ally, may eventually destroy both him and his country. Having betrayed the rest of Europe, these ideological twins will eventually betray each other.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1—Which famous writer of detective stories used as a character an Andaman Islander in one of his stories?

2—What is an oligarchy?

3—Which boxing bout drew the largest gate receipts?

4—In which vessel did Henry Hudson discover the Hudson River—the "Fullmoon," "Halfmoon" or "Moonbeam"?

5—What is the name for the largest of the anthropoid apes?

Answers

1—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

2—A form of government in which the supreme power is held by a small class of persons.

3—The second fight between Tunney and Dempsey at Chicago in 1927.

4—"Halfmoon."

5—Gorilla.

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Everyday Movies—By Wortman