

Weekly News Analysis

# 83 Children Die on Torpedoed Ship; Kidnaped Boy Safe Home

By Roger Shaw

EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of this newspaper.

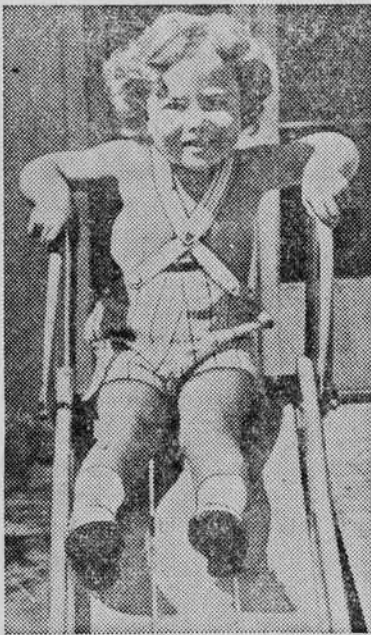
**CRIME:**

**California Kidnaping**

Three days after Marc de Tristan Jr.'s abductor seized him from the street near his home in Hillsborough, Calif., he was returned to his nobleman father, Count de Tristan, in San Francisco.

The child was rescued unharmed from the kidnaper, identified as Wilhelm Jakob Muhlenbroich, a 40-year-old German alien, by two woodsmen at Pine River, in the Sierra foothills 200 miles from Hillsborough.

For this elaborately plotted and boldly executed crime, the kidnaper, a German alien, received no \$100,000 as demanded in a beautifully phrased ransom note of 600 words, but he got a black eye, a gashed head, a bruised body, and he faces almost certain imprison-



MARC DE TRISTAN JR.  
Back home, safe and sound.

ment for life. The lumbermen, Cecil Wetzel and Ellis Woods, violently manhandled him when they found him and the child in an automobile on a dead-end road.

Young Marc, heir to two California fortunes, was kidnaped while his nurse, Mary Foley, was wheeling him in a perambulator. She struggled to protect him, but the abductor escaped with the child after having dropped the ransom note in which he promised that his hostage would be treated "charmingly."

**THE WAR:**  
**Aerialistics**

The British said it would take Hitler 40 years to wipe out London, at the present rate of progress. But at the same rate of progress, the German air force might be wiped out in 40 weeks.

For the first time, just the same, a funny thing happened. The British and Germans both admitted that the other side had outshot them. The British said they had lost at a ratio of 7 to 4. The Germans said they had lost at a ratio of 3 to 1. This was completely unprecedented, not only in the checkered annals of Anglo-German warfare in the clouds, but also in Sino-Japanese, Jap-Russian, and Spanish civil conflicts. Nobody could quite figure it out. It seemed peculiar.

The big question, which vexed the critics, was whether the Germans would actually try a land invasion of England this fall. There were all sorts of stories. The royal air force bombed alleged German troop concentrations along the channel coast, and in Norway. They damaged flat-boats and similar equipment. Whether this equipment was

merely a blind, or not, remained to be seen.

There was a yarn that 200,000 Nazis were massed in Norway, for a drive across. Some critics declared that the light German tank had proved utterly vulnerable to the two-pounder British anti-tank gun. This, they added, had caused Hitler to delay his invasion, and might postpone it indefinitely. That, again, remained to be seen.

**Just Kids**

A very large number of the Nazi fliers up over England were young kids in their teens. They had been raised under the totalitarian system, and had the reckless fanaticism of utter youth. Their only enthusiasm was Hitler. They almost courted death. The Nazi regime seemed to be deliberately exploiting these amateur wild-men. Their bombs might almost be termed: gifts to the school-children of London, from the high school boys of Berlin (or Breslau, or Augsburg, or whatever). No regime in history, said one historian, had ever sacrificed youth in this completely cold-blooded manner—that is, its own youth. The Goering flying circus might well be renamed the Goering suicide squad.

**More Kids**

The London press screamed "murder" at the announcement by the British government of the sinking of an English refugee ship with a toll of 293 persons, 83 of whom were children en route to Canada.

The ship, her name not disclosed, was torpedoed 600 miles west of England and sank in a stormy sea within 20 minutes after she was attacked.

Of 406 men, women, and children aboard, only 113 were brought back alive by a warship which reached the scene at dawn—almost eight hours after the torpedo struck. Stories of heroism and horror told by survivors of the disaster indicated that many lives were lost in the terrific explosion which ripped the vessel. Many others were swept from lifeboats or died of injuries and exposure.

The children were from 5 to 15 years old, and were the first lost in the child evacuation movements which have been under way ever since the war began.

The attacking submarine was not identified, but the tragedy was described by government officials as "another example of the barbarous methods associated with Nazi Germany."

**CAMPAIGN:**  
**Spirit of 1776-'40**

The drums beat. The bugles blared, the fifes tooted, the crowds cheered, the urchins ducked in and out, while women fainted, and candidates kissed babies, and wrapped

themselves in the old red, white and blue bunting. The electoral campaign of 1940 still was in progress.

The latest Gallup poll galloped all over Mr. Willkie's chances. It told the following sad tale—that is—for the Grande Olde Partisans. According to Gallup, Roosevelt would get 37 states and 453 electoral votes. According to the same Mr. Gallup, Willkie would get 10 states and 78 electoral votes. This did not look any too encouraging for the Willkisti. Said an old cynic: "This is one golf game where the caddies are going



CANDIDATE McNARY

Republican Vice Presidential Nominee McNary is pictured as he spoke at Aurora, Ill., opening his Midwest campaign. He engaged in a bitter attack on the Hull reciprocal trade agreements. Henry Wallace, Democratic candidate for the same post, has already toured this section of the country and is busy elsewhere upholding his party's cause.

to beat the country-club members." The Republicans, of course, failed to agree with this estimate. Sam Pryor, director of the eastern division of the Republican national committee, couldn't endorse the Gallup estimate. Pryor thought that Willkie would get 300 or more electoral votes, leaving Roosevelt with 231 or less. Pryor added that about two-thirds of the country editors were for Willkie, and that these editors conceded Willkie more than half of the popular votes in their editorial districts.

**Etc., Etc.**

Each side accused the other side of dictatorial ambitions. The Democrats said the Willkisti were planning a "fascist" big-business dictatorship, while the Republicans said the Rooseveltens were scheming a personal sort of "war" dictatorship. Earl Browder wanted the dictatorship of the proletariat, and that left only Norman Thomas, whom one prominent literary critic described as a 1940 streamlined Jefferson. But nobody expected many votes for Mr. Thomas, and perhaps he didn't either.

The profits from Willkie button-hole bouquets, in placard form,

**NAMES in the news . . .**

◀ Elliott Roosevelt, son of the President, applied for a commission in the U. S. army air corps. He is 30 years old, and it was reported he might be assigned to the "specialist reserve."

◀ Mayor LaGuardia of New York city told a United States conference of burgomasters that the U. S. has an 80 per cent chance of escaping war, with the acquisition of the new Atlantic naval and air bases. The conference was held in N. Y.

◀ Martin ("Bugsy") Goldstein and Harry ("Pittsburgh Phil") Strauss were convicted of murder in the first degree for the Brooklyn, N. Y., murder-syndicate killing of Irving ("Puggy") Feinstein, a fellow malfactor.

◀ Westminster cathedral got into the news. A Nazi dive-bomber just missed the dome, 284 feet high. It dropped a 250-pound bomb in the asphalt playground, adjoining West-

minster cathedral is the Roman Catholic headquarters in England, a sort of rival to the Anglican (Episcopal) Westminster Abbey.

◀ Three official United States observers got back from Great Britain. They were Brig.-Gen. George Strong, Col. Carl Spaatz, and Maj.-Gen. Delos Emmons. They reported that England was growing stronger, rather than weaker.

◀ "Don't worry—they'll get it back," said Winston Churchill to the Londoners, in the heat of the German atrocities that rained down from the hell-blue skies.

◀ The untimely death of Dr. Glenn Frank in an automobile accident was a heavy contemporary blow to the Republican party, the state of Wisconsin and the embattled legions of the American liberals and intellectuals. His passing is well worth this serious note of attention.

were on the up and up. Some of these buttons were witty or abusive. "If I were 21, I'd vote for Willkie." "Roosevelt for ex-president." "No more fireside chats." "No more Eleanor, either." "Anti-III term." "Roosevelt means war." The list seemed to be endless and varying from good to bad.

The Roosevelt buttons were not so aggressive. The proletarians appeared more dignified than the bourgeois, and were pro-Franklin, rather than anti-Wendell.

**RUMANIA:**  
**Transylvania**

Rumania was settling down, under the anti-Carol dictatorship of Gen. John Antonescu, who had been locked up in a monastery until recently. Antonescu helped to chase Carol out of the country, with his hated, red-headed girl-pal Lupescu. Then it turned out that Carol and Lupescu were married, and had been since perhaps 1929. This news cheered the Mrs. Grundy's of the entire world.

Antonescu's new Rumania was pro-Nazi and anti-Jewish. It had lost about two-thirds of its territory: Bessarabia and Bukovina to Russia, Transylvania to Hungary, and the southern part of the Dubruja province to little Bulgaria. Antonescu didn't care for all this. The Rumanians accused the Hungarians of committing all sorts of atrocities in Transylvania province as they marched in. The Hungarian-Rumanian tension seemed scheduled to go on forever.

The Germans and Italians had forced Rumania to cede territory to Hungary and the Bulgarians. Now, the Rumanians began to talk about Germany and Italy forcing the Hungarians, etc., etc., to cede territory back to them. Meanwhile, Rumanian oil exports to Germany were soaring. The best high-test airplane gas comes from the Rumanian wells and today one can consider Rumania as General Goering's "kept" filling station.

**CHALLENGE:**  
**Duello**

General Goering, flying chief of the Third Reich, was up over London in his own Junkers 88 bomber. Goering was the former commander of the Richtofen flying circus in the first world war, and an ace of great renown. Like many an old war horse, in the second world war he couldn't keep his hands off the controls. It was the first time, in a very long time, that a general led his own troops into battle.

Goering may be the black eagle of Germany. But Harlem—New York city's Negro section—has a black eagle, too. His august name is Col. Hubert Fauntleroy Julian. Julian had just finished reading Hitler's book, "Mein Kampf." Julian's blood boiled over, at Hitler's remarks on the colored race. This is what happened:

Colonel Julian issued a challenge to General Goering, to meet him in a single, solitary combat. The place was to be up over the English channel. The weapons were to be Messerschmitt planes. Colonel Julian inferred that General Goering was a "lousy 0 divided by 0." Goering was to have 30 days in which to accept the Julian challenge. The challenge itself read as follows:

"I therefore challenge and defy you, Herman Goering, as head of the Nazi air force, to meet me at 10,000 feet, to fight an aerial duel to avenge the cowardly insult to my race. Neutral correspondents must be the referees." Colonel Julian added that he would buy a Messerschmitt from the British government, which had two captured ones up for sale. Colonel Julian overlooked one detail. General Goering is probably too fat to get into a Messerschmitt.

Julian was Haile Selassie's only fier in the Ethiopian war.

**GOLD:**  
**Down Under**

Gold comes from the bowels of the earth. The goldmasters have gone there, too. The directors of the Bank of England submerged themselves in raid-proof vaults far below the street level. Sir Montagu Norman, the bank's governor, complained that they all had to meet "in this dreary catacomb, instead of in a lovely hall." The directors, however, were unabashed. England apparently, is breeding a race of moles. The goldmasters voted a cool 6 per cent dividend, laughed, and liked it.

Prehistoric note: Primitive man had a third eye. It was up in his forehead, to watch for predatory birds of prey. When it was no longer requisite, this third eye turned into the pineal gland: Will mankind, in the face of constant predatory air raiders, be compelled to redevelop his old anti-aircraft orb?

**BRITISH TROUBLE:**  
**Egypt**

The Italians came out of Tripoli-Libya, and started to invade Egypt, up the long coastline. Already, they had conquered British Somaliland down in East Africa. The British in Egypt were slowly retreating along the coast before Mussolini's Marshal Graziani.

The object of the Italian high command was to cut the Suez canal. This would sever the imperial lifeline of England to India.

**India, Too**

India, meanwhile, was seething with discontent. It contains 400,000,000 of the British Empire's 500,000,000 subjects. But India, under the unofficial leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, was virtually a neutral in the second world war—more neutral, in fact, than the United States. In Egypt, too, there is an anti-British nationalist party called the Wafd: W-A-F-D. But the Wafd had enough balance to be even more anti-Italian than it was anti-British.



MRS. ELLA DONAT, wife of Robert Donat, famous English actor, who has just arrived in the United States from their home in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England, with their three children, stated on her arrival that she believed England would emerge from the war victorious and that she would ultimately return to her green-hilled home to rejoin her actor-husband, best known in the U. S. for his starring role in the motion picture, "Good-bye, Mr. Chips."

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