

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, Oct. 17, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The latest off the wire has a sound of catastrophe -- if it's true. The story comes from Berlin. It states that tonight the Nazi air force is hurling against London, the greatest sky armada that has ever gone winging to the attack. Informed quarters in Berlin declare that three corps of planes have already crossed the Channel, and other air corps are preparing to follow. A Nazi Air Corps is said to consist of a thousand planes. That means three thousand hurled against London already tonight -- with more following. So states Berlin.

WAR

7
The panorama of foreign news tonight is a graphic picture of the bedeviled state this world is in - twists and complications of war; ~~Complications that ramify from one continent to another,~~ devious cruves, cockeyed perplexities, sinister puzzles - all fraught with evil and menace. The foreign news might make one think that old Satan himself had tangled up the affairs of conflicting nations to suit his own diabolical malice.

There was a big celebration today in a remote corner of Asia, fantastic land of mountain and jungle. A thousand Chinese coolies had a riotous feast on the frontier of Burma and China. The occasion celebrated by the host of coolies, was one of ^{world}~~international~~ significance - the reopening of the Burma Road. It occurred today. The Chinese were laborers and truck drivers sent to set the traffic rolling along that much disputed highway - war supplies for Nationalist China fighting Japan.

What the Japanese commanders will do now that the Burma Road has been reopened, is not at all clear. One thing is evident^{to}, that the Mikado's men, by seizing areas of northern

48
Indo-China, are in a position to bomb the Burma Road from air bases

not so far away. So Japanese planes may start blasting the Chinese section of the highway, hitting at the motor caravans of war supplies. Another supposition, however, is that Tokyo may take it easy, and be cautious about the Burma Road. ~~It is pointed~~ out that really not much can be transported along that narrow winding road through the mountains. The Burma Road, largely a token, a gesture - nothing decisive in the war between China and Japan. So Tokyo may be cautious about the possibility of complications with Great Britain.

In Siam - the government of Bangkok has ~~reported~~ ^{ordered} ~~requested~~ all Siamese students to return home from France. The reason - increasing tension between Siam and French Indo-China. The Bangkok government is demanding areas of Indo-Chinese territory. The French authorities say - no, nothing doing. Today there were new and more violent demonstrations in Siam, with shouts of - war! ~~Huge crowds demanding that Siam resort to force. And it looks as though violence might break out with Siam ordering its students to leave France, which might seem like a prelude to trouble.~~

In India, civil disobedience began today - Mahatma Gandhi's ^{new} campaign of non-violence against British rule. A

Number One Gandhi lieutenant launched the movement of passive resistance by addressing a huge crowd. He urged them to give no support to Great Britain in the war - non-cooperation, ^{no war} help in the shape of either work or money. ~~The civil disobedience leaders denounce Great Britain for refusing to grant India self rule right away and also for forcing India to join the war.~~

49
In the Balkan imbroglio - the Germans are reported to be mobilizing submarines at Galatz, the Rumanian port on the Black Sea. The U-boats are said to have been transported from Germany. The Black Sea of course is of supreme importance to Soviet Russia, and a U-boat fleet in those waters is something for Stalin to think about. ^{FF} From Turkey the word is that officials are counting on the aid of Soviet Russia if the Nazi power should push south to the Dardanelles. The Turks suspect that Hitler may have ideas of driving through Asia Minor to hit ^{at} the British in the Near East. It can't be done, say the Turks - adding that they

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expect Soviet aid. ^H From Moscow there's a brief dispatch that the Turkish Ambassador had a conference with the Soviet Foreign Commissar, Molotov. That happened last Saturday, but was only revealed today. Why the delay. One doesn't know, but it might mean something. Nearly everything is suspected of meaning something - so tense is the question of whether the Soviets may

or may not turn against the Nazis, Stalin ending his partnership with Hitler. There's an insistent report of a big conference to be staged at Moscow - a Soviet-German-Italian-Japanese conference.

That would indeed be an important event. The various capitals concerned in the rumor say they know nothing about it. Today Moscow joins in the denial, ~~informed sources declaring that they know nothing about any such conference.~~

The official newspaper of the Red army today prints a declaration that sounds like a revelation of the Soviet state of mind. The newspaper RED STAR states flatly that the German air offensive against Great Britain has failed. "The battle," says the

RED STAR, "shows that neither side has been able to ~~xx~~ achieve

mastery of the air. Both sides are carrying on active operations.

Unbeaten British aviation," it adds, "is even extending the radius of its action." (The Soviet army paper goes on to point out how the R.A.F. continues to smash at Berlin and other German centers, and regards this continued British air offensive as proof that the immense Nazi air war over Great Britain has failed.)

Today, the R.A.F. continued its heavy blows, bombing the usual assortment of Nazi aviation bases and military centers - in the occupied countries and in Germany. And the bombing of London went on as usual, new destruction, fresh havoc from the sky. The

^{name} ~~main~~ feature ^d in the air war news is - Canterbury, ancient and historic. German dive bombers today smashed buildings attached to the great Cathedral. They damaged the Canterbury deanery.

But the great and venerable Cathedral itself was ^{unharmed,} ~~undamaged~~, ~~save for the crashing of windows. Not the historic medieval stained glass of Canterbury, which had been put away for safe keeping - but new windows substituted for the time being.~~

~~Text~~

Today brings an air war anecdote, which is being published far and wide. It's worth repeating, a story which an

English publication tells, as follows:- "A Nazi pilot was brought in after having bailed out in a dogfight. Evidently he was one of Hermann's tough eggs. Although considerably shot about, he bore himself arrogantly and showed little give and take spirit. He spoke good English and all the while he was being stitched and dressed he kept up a running fire of abuse against England, the nurses, the doctors and anything else which met his eyes. To round off the job, they gave him a blood transfusion, settled him in a nice, clean bed and ~~if~~ left him with the words:- 'Now, my lad, you have two pints of good Jewish blood in you. We hope it will improve your manners.'"

Great Britain today was watching ^{Spain} with wary eyes.

The chief anti-British personality in the Franco Cabinet was elevated to a new and most significant post. ~~Six~~ ^{Serrano} ~~Senor~~ ~~Sunier~~ ^{Senor} Suner, brother-in-law of Franco, is Spain's Number One advocate of taking the German-Italian side in the war. Today the announcement came that Suner, who has been Minister of the Interior, has ~~taken on~~ ^{And} a new post - Foreign Minister. That's inevitably interpreted as a Spanish step in the direction of the Axis. More evidence of the possibility of Spain going into the war - aiming at Gibraltar.

would run a good deal higher than had previously been calculated - as much as two per cent higher, with a probable total of nearly seventeen million.

54

If more were registered than had been expected - more also ~~will~~ ^{will} be called. Secretary of War Stimson announced this afternoon that the first batch will be, not four hundred thousand - but six hundred thousand. It had been supposed all along that the smaller figure would be the case. But no, the Secretary of War states that between November Eighteenth of this year and March Fifteenth of Nineteen Forty-One, six hundred thousand draftees ~~will~~ ^{will} be put into the army for military training. Of course the total figure for the one year period remains the same - nine hundred thousand. That's in the law. So the second batch of draftees during the first year will not exceed three hundred thousand.

In New York the first case of conscientious objectors was considered today - ten men who refused to register yesterday. Eight Divinity students of Union Theological Seminary - and two Socialists. The theological students appeared in court with

prayer books. One acted as their spokesman and testified. He was a vigorous, well spoken chap, rather eloquent. He told how he and his fellow objectors were conscientiously opposed to any kind of war, and how they had defied the conscription law because they felt themselves responsible to - a Higher Law." While he testified, the others read aloud from their prayer books.

The case is still continuing.

25

Wendell Willkie in the middlewest today charged that aid to Britain was being ~~is~~ held up for New Deal political reasons. The Republican candidate declared that war material to help the British was being delayed in the interest of the ~~thi~~rd term campaign. This, he claimed, was at the behest of big city political bosses who are afraid that aid for the British might jeopardize their control of large blocks of voters . And so they want it played down.

It is to be noted that, while both presidential candidates talk up aid for Britain, the lesser personalities on both sides are inclined more and more to put emphasis on peace. Both Democratic and Republican candidates for Congress are arguing along the line of keeping out of war. It looks as if this might become the issue more and more toward the last two weeks of the campaign - controversy about which candidate, which party, is the more likely to take us into the European conflict.

WILLKIE

56
Yes and it appears that Wendell Willkie is going to miss some music tonight. The Republican candidate is not going to hear the sweet sounds of melody and harmony, as he had expected to.

Willkie is in St. Louis, where he'll make a speech this evening. After the address he was scheduled to hear the music. He had been invited to attend a concert staged by the Kiwanis Clubs, a charity concert to raise funds for the benefit of under-privileged children in the St. Louis area. A praiseworthy enterprise, and the music promised to be excellent - a United States Navy band playing. The Navy has some good bands, with brilliant horns and mellow clarinets.

But tonight Wendell Willkie will not be there to hear the horns and the clarinets - or the bassoon or base drum for that matter. His appearance at the charity Navy band concert has been cancelled. Why? It's this way. The lieutenant who directs the band today phoned the Kiwanis people and told them that he had ~~got~~ a telegram from Washington, a telegram informing him that under no circumstance would the Navy band be permitted to play at the concert

27
tonight - if Willkie was among those present. So that was that.
The Kiwanis ^{and} informed the Willkie people - and they said Okay -
Willkie won't be there. And so if the candidate tonight has any
yearning for music, I suppose he'll have to tune in on the radio -
if he wants to hear horns and clarinets, the bassoon and the
bass drum.

In addition, there was some more egg throwing today
by gentlemanly and enlightened political thinkers. It happened
at Evansville, Indiana, as Mr. and Mrs. Willkie drove by in an
automobile. The eggs, however, missed ~~the car~~ ^{them} by a wide margin.
The aim was as bad as the manners.

BOOK

5
I've had a good deal of experience with saying things on the air, and having them misunderstood. Sometimes a statement isn't made clearly enough and is confusing. Sometimes people just hear it wrong. They'll be listening with one ear to little Willie playing on his drum.

58
For example, the other evening I said I'd like to send a copy of my new book, PAGEANT OF ADVENTURE, to every person who figured in any of the two hundred adventure stories the volume contains. I suggested that if anyone happened to see the book and recognized anybody mentioned in it, and knew where that person might be located -- I'd like to have the address, so that I could send a book along.

As a result, I've been getting letters from many who seem to think I said I'd send a copy of PAGEANT OF ADVENTURE to anybody who wrote and asked for it. One chap said, "If my name isn't mentioned in your book, it should be." Well, passing out free books to all and sundry would just about break John D.

So may I repeat what I said:- that I will be glad to send copies

58 1/2
to people who happen to figure in the true thrill tales in PAGEANT OF ADVENTURE.

END

We began this broadcast with the fantastic tangle of world war affairs so now let's end it with a gag - on the same theme. Here's a joke that was played over and over again in New York today. Some fellow would say to some other fellow -

like Hugh Troy the practical joker

"How would you like to have a couple of tickets for the opening of 'Burma Road?' If the other fellow happened to be fooled and said ~~Yes~~ yes, he'd like a couple of free theatre tickets, the jokster would continue by giving him a telephone number and saying: "You just call this number and tell them you want a couple of tickets for the opening of 'Burma Road'."

Whereupon the victim of the prank would call the number, and it would turn out to be - the Japanese Consulate!

And SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.