

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There's a ~~definite~~ feeling in the air tonight that another zero hour draws near in Europe, the zero hour for Hitler's blitzkrieg on his most hated enemy, Britain. Nothing has happened yet <sup>just</sup> ~~but~~ rumors. However, we have the grim memory <sup>of</sup> ~~that~~ similar rumors denied, repeated, and denied again, <sup>the rumors that</sup> preceded the <sup>sweep over</sup> ~~Nazi blitzkrieg on~~ Holland, Belgium and France. There <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ one rumor that the Fuehrer has given orders to cut loose tomorrow morning. Of course nobody knows the truth of that outside the Nazi inner ring and the general staff. There was even a report <sup>today</sup> that German troops had actually landed on the British coast. The Churchill Government took that one seriously enough to put out an official and emphatic denial. <sup>And</sup> That official denial was the first thing we <sup>had</sup> ~~is~~ heard of the report which evidently had been running through Britain like wildfire all day.

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*It arose because*

*Somebody* in the Midlands reported that he had seen an airplane flying over a wood, and that later the countryside was swarming with German parachute invaders. The authorities ran that one down and found there was nothing in it.

The Nazis have, ~~to be sure,~~ made a landing on the Channel Islands, ~~which was~~ *isles that were* British soil until ~~it was~~ *they were* evacuated last week. But that doesn't mean much. Those lovely islands, which belong to King George not as King and Emperor but as hereditary Duke of Normandy, are closer to France than to Britain. They have no military value as a point of attack on England. On the other hand, they would have been exceedingly difficult to defend. The Ministry of Information in London officially admitted <sup>S</sup>~~ted~~ that the islands have been seized. They were first captured by Nazi planes, in a surprise attack. There are no details to tell us how the German generals transferred their troops to the Islands.

*But* It isn't the capture of Jersey and Guernsey that leads to the belief that Hitler is about to unleash all his horrors on Britain. It's the information <sup>that</sup> his generals have been

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massing guns and war materiel of all sorts along the French side of the Straits of Dover. A gigantic armada has been assembled at Boulogne, Calais and Dunkirk. This information comes through German air men shot down and taken prisoner by the French. William Philip Simms, Foreign Editor of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, says what he heard is that the Nazis have concentrated materiel of fantastic proportions along that strip of land just twenty-two miles from the white chalk cliffs of England.

In an article published today in the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM and the other Scripps-Howard papers, Simms reports that he was told that <sup>the</sup> armada includes huge numbers of new long distance cannon capable of shooting explosive shells a distance of forty miles; <sup>guns</sup> That would enable them to set up a barrage to cover a strip of British soil eighteen miles wide. Those guns are supposed to have been built especially for the invasion of Britain. Simms also learned that the Nazis have twenty-five thousand planes ready to swarm over the island with their deadly rain of bombs. Most of those, it is believed,

have been

~~they~~ built since the war started last September. And by all accounts <sup>this is said to be</sup> ~~that is described as~~ a conservative estimate.

A lot of people have doubted that even the mechanized power of the Nazis could effect a successful landing <sup>on</sup> ~~at~~ that impregnable Island. But Simms, who returned from Europe by trans-Atlantic clipper only last week, <sup>(heard something quite</sup> ~~has a~~ different ~~story~~.

~~to tell~~. He says that well informed neutral expert military opinion believes the Germans can do it. <sup>Because</sup> They are so vastly superior not only in air power and mechanized equipment, but also in man-power. ~~The~~ The military theory is, that with all their artillery and bombers, they can block off a stretch of the Straits of Dover forty miles wide, block it off so effectively that even the strongest of Britain's warships could not approach it. Under cover of this barrage, say the experts, a barrage extending eighteen miles into British soil, the Nazis could land troops in force and establish what is known as a bridgehead.

The worst of it is, from the British point of view, that they <sup>British</sup> lost practically all <sup>of</sup> their equipment in Flanders -

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ammunition, tanks, trucks, artillery. ~~That was no vain German~~  
~~boast.~~ American correspondents report that they saw those  
huge quantities of British stores, saw the trucks and tanks being  
repainted for use by the Nazis.

A further note of alarm was sounded tonight by  
Leslie Hore Belisha, who was War Secretary when the war started  
*but* ~~and~~ was forced out. He ~~was~~ <sup>5)</sup> pointed <sup>again</sup> out that Britain has a  
danger <sup>spot</sup> ~~spot~~ in Ireland. The Nazis might try to seize Irish ports  
and use them as bases for a blockade of Britain. *In fact today* ~~The~~ Ex-War  
Secretary draws a *black* ~~sinister~~ picture. He declares that Britain  
is *blocked* ~~blockaded~~ in the North Sea because the Nazis hold Norway,  
Denmark and Holland. *Blocked* ~~She is blockaded~~ in the Channel because  
Hitler holds Belgium and France. Also, he says, the British  
communications in the South Atlantic will be threatened by  
submarines operating from the French southern harbors ~~at~~ of  
Brest and Bordeaux. So, if Hitler would effect a landing in  
Ireland, he would have Britain shut off from *America* ~~the west~~ on her  
only remaining flank. *And the consequences, would*  
*be starvation, says the ex-British*  
*War minister.*



LEAD - 6

*It is generally believed that Hitler will start the invasion by July 9th at the latest.*

Britain's one hope, it is said, is that ~~southern~~ <sup>sudden</sup> move

of Stalin against Rumania. British sympathizers believe that this diversion in the Balkans ~~could~~ <sup>may</sup> distract Hitler from his invasion of Britain. On the other hand, experts have declared that it would take only ten or twelve of those irresistible Nazi Panzer divisions to knock out Russia in one short campaign, ~~the~~ <sup>hence the</sup> thought of the Soviets doesn't bother the Fuehrer.

The latest from the Rumanian capital is that King Carol has renounced the British and French guarantee of Rumanian frontiers. Of course, for several weeks that guarantee hasn't been worth the paper it was written on. But today the Rumanian government officially announced that in future the foreign policy of King Carol's government would be in line with the new orientation of Europe. And that is taken to mean only one thing:- Carol is going to play ball with the Nazis. ~~He is~~ making a desperate last minute attempt to save his country from complete dismemberment; *placing Rumania under the protection of Hitler.*

In Bessarabia and Bukovina, the Soviet mechanized divisions have moved so fast that they have over-taken the Rumanian soldiers who are evacuating. To the east, Hungary is partially

mobilized; The entire Budapest area ~~is~~ mobilized, and the whole country is in a state of semi-mobilization. Admiral Horthy's government issued orders tonight curtailing train service; ~~that is~~ interpreted as a prelude to general mobilization orders tonight.

To the south, the Rumanians are threatened by Bulgaria. The Balkans are full of rumors about border clashes, the usual reports that come before invasion.

Although Carol gave in to Stalin's demands, the Soviets are attacking with full strength. They have landed parachute troops in swarms, also small tanks carried by transport plane .

In the Far East, everybody is in hourly expectation of a sudden attack by the Japanese on Hong Kong. Two steamers, packed with American and British refugees, left that British island for Manila today. A condition amounting almost to panic prevails ~~in that region~~ *out there*.

NAVY

Uncle Sam is going ahead with a vengeance on his new two-ocean navy. A bunch of contracts was announced today, by the Acting Secretary, Lewis Compton. It's the largest single group of contracts in history - forty-five new ships, forty-five that will cost Uncle four hundred and fourteen million dollars.



TAX

Another tax bill for Congress to work on! A tax bill to prevent anybody from profiteering on the <sup>building</sup> ~~increase~~ of our national armament. To this end, <sup>the</sup> ~~President Roosevelt~~ sent a special message to Congress, a short one, only five paragraphs. The gist of it was, "I recommend to the Congress the enactment of a steeply graduated excess profits tax, to be applied to all individuals and all corporate organizations without discrimination." And <sup>the President</sup> ~~Mr. Roosevelt~~ also said:- "We are asking even our humblest citizens to contribute their mite. So it's our duty to see that the burden is equitably distributed so that a few don't gain from the sacrifices of the many."

<sup>He</sup> ~~Mr. Roosevelt~~ left the details to the discretion of the lawmakers. Probably this will be one of the first jobs that Congress will tackle after the Democratic National Convention at Chicago in two weeks. Congress will take a ten day recess a week from Thursday.

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WILLKIE

A private yacht docked at the New York World's Fair today, ~~bringing a cargo that has captured the interest of the entire~~ ~~country.~~ The yacht belonged to Roy Howard of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, <sup>including</sup> ~~President and Editor of~~ the NEW YORK WORLD TELEGRAM. From it stepped a tall, <sup>brawny,</sup> ~~husky,~~ beaming figure, with a smiling face and wavy hair. That face, through newspapers and newsreels, is already familiar to the whole country, <sup>for</sup> ~~since~~ it belongs to the Republican candidate, Wendell Willkie. Incidentally, his Uncle out in his home town, says his real name is Lewis W. Willkie, but as a young man he always hated the name "Lewis". <sup>and in World</sup> ~~in the last~~ War days <sup>was</sup> he got on the roster of Uncle Sam's army as Wendell Willkie and has let it ride that way ever since.

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Soon after he landed from the yacht, he made a date with the newspaper men in a downtown office. There he showed he had one faculty highly <sup>necessary</sup> ~~desirable~~ in a candidate. He can handle a press conference. It needed all his ability, for this one was jammed. There were enough reporters present to get out a round dozen newspapers and still have a couple of bridge and poker games going on the side.

Though he handled his questioners well, he didn't tell them <sup>much</sup> anything and sometimes that's the essence of good handling.

He's going to hold his fire until some date in the future when a committee will wait on him at Elwood, Indiana, and break to

him the great secret that he has been nominated by the Republican

Party. And that's when he's going to tell where he stands, and <sup>then</sup> <sup>and there he'll give his interpretation of</sup> ~~interpret~~ the G.O.P. platform.

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Instead of giving the reporters news, he gave them an interesting story. "I'll tell you something dramatic," said Willkie, walking to the window of the office. He pointed across the street and said:- "There is the building where President Roosevelt and his law partner, Basil O'Connor, had offices when I came to New York." Then he explained that his own office was in the building just across the street from them. <sup>And</sup> ~~Then~~ he made the <sup>remark</sup> ~~slight crack~~ that he did not know whether Mr. Roosevelt would be going back to practice law there or not.

They asked him whether he had read what the Democrats had said about his nomination. Willkie's reply about his

Democratic opponents was:- "Those boys must have the jitters."

Then he added:- "They sounded just like the people who opposed me in Philadelphia. Every time my opponents said anything, I got more votes."

He told the newspaper men that his ~~opponents~~<sup>rival</sup>, Tom Dewey, had been very swell about all this. Dewey, he said, telephoned a ~~loss than a~~ ~~Willkie~~ half ~~an~~ hour before the ~~existing~~ balloting was over to congratulate him. Then he ~~he~~ added that he expected Dewey would help him in his campaign.

Tom Dewey, for his part, said he would speak for Willkie any time he was asked. And he described ~~his successful~~<sup>the man who</sup> ~~defeated him~~ as a man of splendid character *and a great* *campaigner.*

Incidentally, Willkie today resigned as President and Director of Commonwealth and Southern, the resignation to take effect July Tenth. And he will shortly resign from all the other companies with which he is connected or interested.

What has happened to the other candidates? I only know about one:- Tom Dewey returned to the Quaker Hill Farm, slept around the clock. Got up, donned a cooler apron and cooked supper for his mother and wife and 2 boys and a few friends. It

can testify that he's a good cook.

McNARY FOLLOW WILLKIE

As for candidate Willkie also said that later in the week he would go to

Washington to talk things over with his fellow candidate,

Senator Charles McNary of Oregon. McNary likewise ran the gauntlet of a

press conference today. He said he couldn't go to New York to

see Willkie because he was too busy with his job as a Senator;

and he added that the head of the ticket would carry the big

burden of the campaign. The Oregon Senator will make a few radio

speeches and visit some sections of the country, presumably out

west though he didn't say so. But he added that he would not be

able to make any swing around the circle, no general tour.

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FLOOD

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Floods in Texas! This is an unusual time of year for such news. Only a small part of the state was affected, an eighty mile area between the Colorado and the Lavaca Rivers. But it's a rich section and the angry waters did a million dollars' worth of damage before they subsided.

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For all the smallness of the flood district, the way it happened was dramatic and startling. There had been a week of rainfall in ~~south central~~ south central Texas. Then, with the ground thoroughly saturated so that it could <sup>absorb</sup> no more, the heavens opened in a cloudburst. One place had sixteen inches of rain in twelve hours. In less than no time the Colorado and the Lavaca and Guadalupe - the last two normally shallow streams - became raging torrents, overflowing their banks. A Southern Pacific passenger train left the tracks. Bridges, communication lines and roads were swept away. One town was marooned, cut off from all communication, and Red Cross help was brought in only through the effective work of a ham radio operator.

— an amateur  
And now Hugh!

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~~Seven people killed. That's the death toll, and the~~

~~authorities say it's a conservative guess.~~