

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MAY 24, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am broadcasting tonight from the shores of the largest natural lake in the State of Pennsylvania. I wonder how many of you know what lake I refer to? The name of it is Conneaut Lake. The occasion is the Annual Banquet of the Talon Industrial Club - a thousand or more employees and executives of the great Talon Company that has done so much to put zip into our lives.

I wish I could tell you of the trip I made through the plants here today. But, the news from abroad is still so overwhelming that it crowds out everything else. Here's the latest that has just come over my special wire --

The British Empire listened today to grave words of warning, given by King George the Sixth. The occasion was Empire Day, and the British Sovereign spoke of the aim of the Nazi dictator. "Germany," said King George, "is seeking the overthrow complete and final, of this Empire and everything for which it stands. And after that," he added "the conquest of the world."

George the Sixth told the British colonies and Dominions that their commonwealth of nations cannot survive a victory by Nazi Germany. "Defeat," said he "will not mean some brief eclipse from which we shall emerge with renewed strength. It will mean the destruction of our world as we have known it and the descent of darkness upon its ruins. "King George voiced the depth of British indignation in these words :- "Against Our Honesty, " said he, "is set dishonor. Against our faithfulness is set treachery. Against our justice, brute force."

ROBERT BATES

Everywhere in America, and in many other lands as well, one topic of conversation today was the speed with which the British have transformed their democratic government into a dictatorship. But, you will all agree that Robert Bates, editor of the TRIBUNE REPUBLICAN here in Meadville, Pennsylvania, makes a good point when he says - speaking of Britain:- "Yet it still has the one great advantage of a democracy; Britain has conferred the ultimate in power on its Prime Minister, but, has reserved the right to take it back" - and can do so at any time. On the other hand, with your Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin dictatorships, there is no turning back.

As for the strategic situation in Northern France it is much the same tonight as it was last night -- the same picture. But with colors more intense. The Allies in the trap are fighting desperately to break through the southern line of encirclement. Battling to escape. They are hitting at the thinnest part of the Nazi wedge; and they have gained local successes. Paris reports that the German cordon hemming in British, Belgian and French forces to the North -- is only twenty-five miles wide now. This -- in the area of Amiens and Arras. The Allies are striking their hardest with artillery, great lines of heavy guns blasting at the narrow strip held by the Germans. The imprisoning band of the width of twenty-five miles is described as being raked with shells, blasted by an incessant giant barrage. Yet, Paris reports that the Nazi Commanders are still able to get fast motorized units through. Many are destroyed, but others make their way through the inferno. It isn't clear just what kind of defense the Germans have along that ribbon of flame. But it's enough of a defense to have kept the allies from breaking through thus far.

Berlin, today, for the first time, admitted that during the past several days the Allies had launched heavy blows at the thin section of the area they hold.

Berlin states that the attempts to get through were beaten off largely because of Hitler's anti-tank guns destroying the attacking tanks of the Allies.

The French to the South of the line are hitting the line in places to relieve their comrades to the north. But there's still no real sign of the expected giant counter-offensive.

At the west of the trap things are pretty much as they were last night. Heavy German forces from Belgium pushing forward against fierce British resistance. Berlin today claimed ~~an~~ a further advance and the capture of the cities of Ghent and Tournai. Trying to drive a wedge into the trapped Allied Army -- to cut it in two.

Paris reports that the fighting on the Eastern line has changed from the Blitzkrieg ~~form~~ form of motion to a more old-fashioned clash of great masses of infantry, the Germans driving and the British resisting, in the more accustomed way of war.

On the other side of the huge pocket German motorized units today drove at Calais. Last night they were at Bolougne. This morning London announced that the Germans had captured that vital

seaport on the English Channel, but later Paris stated that French forces were fighting in the city, holding off the invaders, Berlin claims the capture of Calais. But this Paris denies, though admitting that swift Nazi motor columns were nearby. The French military bulletins declared that Nazi push along the Channel coast is a mere raid by fast units -- something like the sporadic cavalry raids in wars of old. Paris says the German detachments that have got to Boulogne and are near Calais will soon be mopped up. They French military commentators maintain that the Allies are now gaining the initiative from the Germans from the Germans, are attacking according to their own plans -- instead of having to defend, Paris is taking a more optimistic tone -- more so than London.

The Battle of Flanders continues as the greatest military engagement of history, threatening the English with worse disaster than an army has ever known, or perhaps, the Allies may stage the greatest escape in the history of war.

ITALY.

FOR WEEKS, MILITARY OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN WATCHING THE SAILINGS OF ITALIAN SHIPS. ON THIS BROADCAST I HAVE MADE IT A POINT TO REPORT THE DEPARTURE FROM ITALY OF SUCH LINERS AS THE REX AND THE SAVOIA. THE IDEA BEING OF COURSE--THAT MUSSOLINI WOULD NOT SEND HIS CRACK BIG BOATS OUT TO BE CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH, IF HE WERE GOING TO JUMP INTO THE WAR IMMEDIATELY. SO TODAY THE SPOTLIGHT WAS ON AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN ROME, AN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE SAILING OF ITALIAN SHIPS.

THE LUXURY LINER REX WAS SCHEDULED TO CLEAR PORT FOR NEWYORK ON MAY TWENTY - NINTH, NEXT WEDNESDAY. THE SAILING HAS BEEN POSTPONED --POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE TWELFTH, TWO WEEKS LATER. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED IN ROME TODAY. ALSO --A CHANGE IN THE SCHEDULE OF THE SAVOIA. SHE LEAVES NEWYORK TOMORROW, RETURNING TO ITALY. SHE WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN HER RETURN TRIP TO AMERICA ON JUNE TWELFTH. THAT'S POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE TWENTY - THIRD, ELEVEN DAYS. AND THE SAILING OF THE LINER AUGUSTUS FOR NEWYORK HAS BEEN DELAYED. ALSO, THE DEPARTURE OF THE ITALIAN PASSENGER STEAMER NEPTUNIA, PLYING BETWEEN ITALY AND CENTRAL AMERICA. SHE WAS TO HAVE SAILED FROM ITALY TODAY, BUT HER DEPARTURE HAS BEEN PUT OFF UNTIL JUNE TWENTY FIRST.

ITALY (CONTINUED).

OBVIOUSLY THESE POSTPONEMENTS SEEM TO INDICATE THAT ITALY MAY JOIN GERMANY IN THE WAR SOME TIME DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. OR AT ANY ~~DATE~~ RATE, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THERE'S A POSSIBILITY OF THIS, AND IS PLAYING SAFE IN THE WAY OF SHIPS.

PARIS REPORTS ALLIED NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITALY- TRYING TO SETTLE DISPUTES ABOUT THE BRITISH BLOCKADE. THE ALLIES PROBABLY OFFERING BLOCKADE CONCESSIONS TO MUSSOLINI.

IT WAS DISCLOSED IN LONDON TODAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN EXCHANGE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL AND PREMIER MUSSOLINI. WE ARE TOLD THAT CHURCHILL ASKED THE DUCE TO CLARIFY THE POSITION OF ITALY WITH REFERENCE TO THE PRESENT WAR, AND THAT MUSSOLINI HAS REPLIED WITHOUT GIVING ANY ASSURANCE-- REFUSES² TO SAY "YES" OR "NO".

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THERE ARE WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT IT'S AGREED BETWEEN HITLER AND MUSSOLINI THAT AS SOON AS THE GERMAN ARMYES TAKE THE CHANNEL PORTS, ITALY WILL JUMP IN-- IN AN ATTEMPT TO BRING THE WAR TO A QUICK CONCLUSION. SO TONIGHT HERE'S THE FOREBODING COINCIDENCE:-- THE GERMANS EITHER HAVE CAPTURED OR SEEM ABOUT TO CAPTURE THE TWO PRINCIPAL CHANNEL PORTS OF FRANCE, BOULOGNE AND CALAIS. AND

ITALY (CONTINUED SHEET THREE)

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SIMULTANEOUSLY ITALY POSTPON^S THE SAILING OF A STRING OF THE
BIGGEST ITALIAN VESSELS.

WXR

TROTZKY.

THE FANTASTIC TROTZKY AFFAIR BECOMES CLEAR TONIGHT, THIS MORNING'S RAID ON THE MEXICAN HOME OF THE ONE - TIME WAR LORD OF THE RED ARMY WAS DEFINITELY AN ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE TROTZKY-AND A GUN BLAZING ATTEMPT IT WAS . THE EXILED ENEMY OF STALIN LIVES IN A VILLA AT COYOACAN, THE COUNTRY SOUTH OF MEXICO CITY. THERE TROTZKY LIVES AND WRITES HIS BITTER POLEMICS AGAINST THE RED DICTATOR WHO DROVE HIM FROM POWER AND INTO EXILE.

LATELY TROTZKY HAS BEEN VARYING HIS ANTI-STALIN ACTIVITIES WITH A Milder SORT OF AMUSEMENT . HE RAISES CHICKENS AND RABBITS. RATHER MILD FOR THE ONE- TIME COMPANION OF LENIN IN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA. TROTZKY'S VILLA IS HEAVILY GUARDED FOR FEAR OF ATTEMPTS AGAINST HIS LIFE BY THE STALIN COMMUNISTS. RECENTLY, HIS WRITINGS HAVE INDICATED GREATER FEAR THAN EVER THAT THE LONG ARM OF THE SOVIET OGPU WOULD SEEK TO LIQUIDATE HIM - ANYTHING TO STOP HIS MACHINATIONS AGAINST THE STALIN REGIME.

THE STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED AT DAWN THIS MORNING WAS OBSCURE DURING A LARGE PART OF THE DAY, BUT LATER ON CAME A FULL AND CLEAR ACCOUNT. ABOUT FOUR A M TWENTY MEN MARCHED TO THE TROTZKY VILLA. THEY GAINED ENTRANCE BY A TRICK. SOME OF THEM WORE POLICE UNIFORMS.

TROTZKY . (CONTINUED)

THE DISGUISE FOOLED ONE OF THE GUARDS, AN AMERICAN - SHELDON HARTE OF NEWYORKCITY. THEY SEIZED HIM AND LATER TOOK HIM AWAY WITH THEM. TONIGHT HE'S MISSING, AND THE MEXICAN POLICE ARE HUNTING FOR HIM FAR AND WIDE. THE RAIDING PARTY, WITH THE AID OF THEIR POLICE-UNIFORM-DISGUISE WERE ABLE TO SEIZE FOUR OR FIVE OTHER OF THE GUARDS - AND TIE THEM UP.

THEN THE UPROAR BEGAN, A RATTLING AND CRASHING OF MACHINE GUNS AND PISTOL FIRE. THEY BLAZED AWAY INTO THE BEDROOM OF THE ARCH ENEMY OF STALIN, WHERE TROTZKY AND HIS WIFE WERE SLEEPING ON COTS. AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER MAN WHO LOOKED OVER THE SCENE THIS AFTERNOON REPORTS THAT THERE WERE MORE THAN SEVENTY BULLET HOLES IN THE WALLS OF TROTZKY'S BEDROOM. HE ADDS THAT THERE WAS A BULLET HOLE IN THE PILLOW ON WHICH TROTZKY HAD BEEN SLEEPING.

HOW DID THE FORMER RED WAR LORD ESCAPE? APPARENTLY THE TROTZKYS HUSBAND AND WIFE, HAD THEIR WITS ABOUT THEM. AS SOON AS THE SHOOTING BEGAN, THEY ROLLED FROM THEIR COTS AND LAY ON THE FLOOR, OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE. THE WOULD BE ASSASINS TOSSED INCENDIARY BOMBS, WITH SOME SORT OF FIRE LIQUID INTO THE TROTZKY BEDROOM. BUT THE ONE TIME RED ARMY CHIEF AND HIS WIFE WERE ABLE TO PUT OUT THE FLAMES. AN INCENDIARY BOMB WAS TOSSED IN TO THE BEDROOM OF TROTZKY'S YOUNG NEPHEW AND HE WAS SLIGHTLY INJURED.

TROTZKY. (THIRD CONTINUED)

ALL THE WHILE SEVERAL GUARDS WHO REMAINED AT LIBERTY, WERE TRYING TO SHOOT BACK AT THE ASSAILANTS, BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH LUCK -- IN THE FACE OF THE MACHINE GUNS AND PISTOL FUSELLADE. THE RAIDING PARTY SEEMS TO HAVE FELT CERTAIN THAT STALIN'S GREATEST ENEMY HAD BEEN KILLED. THEY GRABBED TROTZKY'S TWO AUTOMOBILES AND WENT SPEEDING AWAY -- THE MORE IN A HURRY BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT A NEARBY DETACHMENT OF MEXICAN POLICE WOULD QUICKLY BE ON THE SCENE.

IT SEEMS LIKE A MIRACLE THAT TROTZKY SURVIVED ^{today's} ~~THE~~ FEROCIOUS ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE. HE HIMSELF HAS NO DOUBT HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT - THE STALIN SECRET POLICE. HE IMMEDIATELY ISSUED A STATEMENT IN THESE WORDS :| - "THE ATTACK WAS ORGANIZED BY THE OGPU UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF STALIN HIMSELF." ^{So} SAID TROTZKY. AND THEN HE WENT CALMLY TO WORK WRITING SOME MORE BLASTS AGAINST STALIN. ^{The} ~~THE~~ RED DICTATOR.

ARMY

The United States Army is watching the war in Europe with eyes of intense interest -- learning the lessons it can. According to Army Officers the outstanding lesson concerning the war on the ground is this -- striking power on wheels. So the military command of the United States is rushing plans to procure myriads of tanks. Anti-tank guns, and all sorts of equipment for armored units, the man with the rifle is no longer enough, says the Army.

The Navy also had its say today so much of a say that Senator Walsh. Proposed that the Senate Naval Affairs Committee suppress testimony given by Rear Admiral Towers, Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics. The Admiral's testimony wasn't pleasant to hear, but Senator Byrd of Virginia argued that it should be made public. "This is a very discouraging picture", said he, "in view of all the money we have spent. But, "he added, "the country is entitled to know the facts." So the committee refused to suppress the Admiral's testimony.

By the end of the next fiscal year, June Thirtieth, Nineteen-Forty-One, the Navy will have fewer than two thousand first class war planes. So said Admiral Towers. And he specified that the

navy now has thirteen hundred and sixty-seven competent planes and has placed orders for only seven hundred and thirty-four more. Theoretically, the total is two thousand one hundred and one. But, the Admiral pointed out, you've got to take into account the fact that some of the planes are becoming obsolete and some are lost in crashes. So the law of probability places the figure at less than two thousand. President Roosevelt's program of fifty thousand war planes provides that the Navy shall have ten thousand of them. The question is, when?

RED CROSS

THIS MORNING THE RED CROSS REPORTED THAT AFTER HEARING FROM ONLY FOURTEEN PERCENT OF ITS THIRTY SEVEN CHAPTERS, IT HAD RAISED A MILLION AND SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. AND THAT ^{is} WELL AHEAD OF SCHEDULE IN THE DRIVE FOR TEN MILLION DOLLARS TO BE DEDICATED TO EUROPEAN WAR ~~RELIEF~~. THE FIRST ^{socalled} MERCY SHIP WILL SAIL FOR EUROPE ON JUNE FIRST. IT WILL CARRY A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF CLOTHING, SOAP MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND FOOD. ALL - FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ALLIES. THE RED CROSS OFFERED AID TO GERMANY BUT BERLIN REPLIED THAT IT NEEDED NO HELP.

LATER ON CAME ANOTHER RED CROSS BULLETIN - THE FUND DURING THE DAY HAS RISEN TO MORE THAN TWO MILLION ^{one} ~~AND~~ HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. SOME OF THE LARGEST GIFTS ARE LISTED - ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS DONATED BY MR AND MRS JOHN D ROCKEFELLER, TWENTY SIX THOUSAND BY MISS HELEN FRICK OF PITTSBURGH, TWENTY THOUSAND BY THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY - AND SO ON. MONEY FOR MERCY WHERE MERCY IS NEEDED SO MUCH.

59 1/2 And now to Hugh James in N.Y.