

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There is going to be an invasion of the continent of Europe, and apparently sooner than we had been led to expect. For the announcement was made definitely in the British House of Commons today by a member of the Churchill Cabinet, Sir Stafford Cripps, Lord Privy Seal, no less. Great Britain, he told the Commons, has been intensively accumulating armed forces, and an attack on the continent of Europe is being carefully planned.

It is rather conspicuous that the British government's floor leader should make this announcement two days after we had been let into the secret of ^a large ₁ addition to the American Expeditionary Force in Ireland.

LEAD 2

^{himself}
Cripps [^] made no mention of the disembarking of the latest
convoy, so we are led to draw the obvious inference.

That announcement by the Lord Privy Seal came
as a denouement to a two-day debate, in the British House,
on the conduct of the war, a debate in which the
~~Government took all the opposition had to throw. The~~
attack was led by Leslie Hore-Belisha, the Ex-War ~~SECRETARY~~
Secretary, ^{who} ~~He~~ has left no critical stone unturned in his
opposition to Churchill. And ^{his} ~~the~~ latest proposal was
that Churchill ~~should~~ be replaced as leader of the war
effort by a Ministry of Defense to be composed of the
Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Air Force and Navy. To
that, Sir Stafford Cripps replied that there is no one
in the British Empire with a wider ~~and~~ knowledge
of defense problems than the Prime Minister.

The opposition demanded a public investigation
into the British defeats in the Pacific, including

Singapore and Burma. Cripps turned that demand aside and pointed out that the enemy ^{still} holds the initiative with superior forces and shorter lines of communication.

Hore-Belisha hit the nail on the head with one accusation. He declared that the British Army still was without dive bombers. ^{And that charge Sir Stafford} ~~That one~~ Cripps was unable to deny, but, ^{did} he declared that orders ^{for dive bombers} had been placed as long ago as Nineteen Forty, ^{and} but that so far ^{not many} ~~no great quantities~~ of the planes had been delivered. Then Cripps made an interesting explanation. The War Cabinet, he said, decided that Soviet Russia should have priority regarding supplies. This policy, ^{he} added, ~~Cripps~~, continues today because, as he put it, "we realize that the Russian armies, ^{at} ~~with~~ huge sacrifice, are holding the bulk of the German armies and a great portion of the German air force too."

The recent bombing of German centers, he declared, is a part of the broad British and Allied strategy governing

all features of the war.

Incidentally, it was being said outside Parliament that with the steady increase in the aviation power of the Allies, it will soon be easy to send a thousand bombers over Germany, every night. ~~in the future.~~

Sir Stafford

As a culmination to Cripps's defense of Churchill, he took up the gauntlet thrown down by the opposition and accepted the challenge to a vote of confidence.

The Government would willingly stand or fall on such a vote, said the Lord Privy Seal and floor leader.

Churchill himself ~~xxxxxxx~~ was not present; ~~and~~

just why we don't know.
~~Cripps said that he couldn't take part in the debate~~

~~but he did not explain why.~~

RUSSIA

On the Russian front, the reports became more and more sanguine. Timoshenko, the Red Marshal, is closing in on Kharkov. His own side describes his advance as an unbroken march. Hitler's generals threw large numbers of tanks and planes into the balance to stem the Soviet current, but they were all ^{hurled} ~~thrown~~ back, every German counterattack smashed, ^{so} says the story from Moscow, ^{and} ~~smashed~~ with heavy losses, ^{to the Nazis,} ~~and at that~~ ~~xxxxxxxx~~ according to the Russian accounts, they are making big inroads into the force of reserves that Hitler had been piling up for his big June offensive. The Nazi Fuehrer has been bringing up ^{Spring} ~~his~~ reserves not only of men but of weapons. That's the Russian story.

As for the weapons on the Red side, there is encouraging testimony in favor of the mechanisms we have been sending them, thanks to the Lend-Lease program. One high Russian officer reports that the American

Tomahawk fighter planes are, in his language, ~~simply~~ performing miracles in the air war over that Kharkov battlefield. The Russians call them "Tomagawks."

The Russian officer declares that one ^{alone} ~~alone~~ squadron of Tomahawks has fought five thousand battles and destroyed a hundred and two Nazi planes.

The Russians are also enthusiastic about the ^{themselves} tanks they have been building, ~~themselves~~, fifty-two ^{toners} called Klim-Voroshilovs. Thanks to these, the Red Army drove a breach in the German defenses of one key sector before Kharkov, and accomplished a juncture with the Russian infantry advancing from another direction.

Another story from the Soviet side has it that the German Army ^{under} ~~and~~ Field Marshal von Bock is in full flight on a front of a hundred miles. ^π The Germans tried a counterattack on the Russian left flank, seventy

Southwest
miles ~~southeast~~ of Kharkov, but are being held without
advance. [The Russians ~~told~~ ^{say} that the battle before
Kharkov has resolved itself into such a tangle of
tanks and men that the planes on either side in many
spots have been unable to intervene, largely because
the fighters are so mixed up and also because of the
clouds of smoke.

The military expert of a Moscow newspaper
declares that Soviet pilots are bringing back ~~stories~~
~~of~~ a picture of conditions behind the German lines; *and*
they describe the scene as a
~~which they describe as nothing more or less than a~~
panorama of destruction! - Railroads abandoned, bridges
wrecked by bombs, German troop trains and supply trains
derailed and wrecked.

~~Of course that isn't the German side of the story.~~

The Nazi high command admits heavy Red army attacks
around Kharkov. But, *Germane* they say, every attack was thrown

back after heavy fighting.

TP The Germans now publish ^{their summing up of the Russians} ~~a list of the~~ casualties in the Battle of the Kerch Peninsula. ^{There} ~~In that~~ the Nazis claim they destroyed three Soviet armies, ~~which~~ ^{including} ~~comprised~~ seventeen infantry divisions, two cavalry divisions, and four armored car brigades. They took nearly a hundred and fifty thousand Russian prisoners, two hundred and fifty-eight tanks, more than a thousand guns and huge quantities of other booty. And, say the Nazis, only fragments of the enemy forces succeeded in escaping to the Caucasian side of the Kerch Straits.

The radio at Vichy broadcast a sensational report today. It announced that Hitler had massed a huge force behind the Kharkov front including two million soldiers, ten thousand tanks and a hundred thousand parachute troops. Radio Vichy in the last couple of years has usually been found to be inaccurate. The Nazis appear

to be using it merely as an instrument of propaganda.

But large concentrations of Nazi parachute troops are

mentioned in other reports, and it is believed that

these are to be used in the Crimea for a jump landing

in the Caucasus. If the Red Army defeat at Kerch is

anywhere as complete as the Nazis claim, that attack

by parachute troops on the Caucasian mainland ~~might be~~

might indeed be

A a serious threat in the rear of the Russian lines, and

~~something to worry about.~~

BRITISH RAIDS

The German city of Mannheim is largely in flames and ruins tonight. From an R.A.F. raid. And this means much, for Mannheim was a city of great importance to Hitler's armed forces, a center of armament building and chemical factories. Situated where the River Neckar flows into the Rhine, it was the second largest inland port not merely in Germany but in all Europe.

Raw materials, tank bodies, armored plating and other stuff from the industrial region of the Ruhr were brought to the docks of Mannheim by way of the Rhine for assembly or for shipment elsewhere. To the Nazi Army it was more important than the town of Coventry was to British defense. In fact, in all Germany, there were few places of such concentrated war industry as Mannheim.

The British air raid was well timed. Not a cloud in the sky. When the British air fleet appeared, German night fighter planes hopped into the air but

were driven off. In perfect visibility, the R.A.F. crews ^{were} easily able to identify their targets.

Whereupon they dropped high explosives and tens of thousands of incendiary bombs. One detachment of Sterling bombers alone carried more than forty thousand of those fire packages.

Some three hundred British planes took part in the raid and when they had finished there were scores of fires and huge industrial buildings lay in ruins.

The British also visited St. Nazaire, where the Nazis have a submarine base, also they raided airdromes in northern France and Belgium. But Mannheim was the big target.

The last spectacular R.A.F. raid was on the Baltic sea port of Lubeck. After that ~~xx~~ one, the German air ~~xx~~ arm retaliated by bombing the British towns of Bath and Exeter, neither of which has any industrial or military installation. Bath, the historic watering place, and once the capital of

British fashion. The Germans left it in ruins.

Also Exeter, famous principally for its once beautiful Cathedral and college. The British call these German incursions "Baedeker Raids", meaning that the Nazis are deliberately picking names of tourist centers out of Baedeker's Guide and ruining them for the fun of it.

CHINA Follow Russia

China also comes up with some good news. The armies of Chiang Kai-shek ~~have~~ smashed ^{up} two more Japanese columns. One, ~~of them was~~ operating in Yunnan, ~~Province,~~ near the border of Burma. Another was headed for ^{Changsha} ~~Kwangsai~~ ^{TR} in south Central China. But the ^{from China} news ~~there is not~~ all one sided. A Japanese advance with several spearheads is advancing in the Province of Chekiang; ~~that is~~ ^{TR} the province on the China Sea below Shanghai. The communique from Chungking declares that one of the defeated columns consisted of crack Japanese troops and that they were beaten and forced to retire after a two-day battle, ~~along the Hsingchang River.~~

Another hopeful bit of news from that part of the world is that the Monsoon season is approaching. It will bring heavy rains with it and make ~~xxxxxxx~~ transportation almost impossible.

From India we hear that the Allies are becoming stronger in the air over Burma, ^{and} ~~They~~ are attacking the Japanese with ~~greater~~ vigor. ~~and effect~~. Chinese troops in Burma are still in contact with the Japanese and inflicting heavy losses, while the British continue to fight a rear guard action on their ^{way} ~~way out~~ _^ into India.

CANADA

All the Consulates of Vichy, France in Canada
are to be closed. ~~That is an~~ ^{By} order ^{of} by the Canadian
Government, promulgated today. Prime Minister
MacKenzie King told the Parliament at Ottawa that the
Vichy Consulates had become breeding places of
suspicions and misunderstandings. He added that this
does not mean he is breaking off relations with Vichy,
because the ^{Vichy} French Legation at Ottawa ^{will stay on,} ~~remains open,~~
The MacKenzie-King Government made ^{the} ~~that~~ decision after
consulting with Downing Street and Washington.

MARTINIQUE FOLLOW CANADA

Meanwhile, the French warships at Martinique are being effectively ^{im} demobilized. All fuel has been taken out of them and they have been otherwise rendered unavailable for use.

Senator Connally of Texas, ~~who is~~ Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, ^{today} told newspapermen that not only the French warships but also ^{French} merchant vessels ^{put out of commission. This} are being demobilized. ~~This is being done~~, after direct negotiation with Admiral Robert, the High ^{French} Commissioner of the Antilles.

GRAINS

An embargo on ~~the~~ shipment of grains, a voluntary embargo. The purpose, ~~is~~ to ease[↑] up the pressure on the railroads. Leaders of the grain business, from the most important grain shipment centers in the country, met at Chicago today, and made this agreement, ^{that} any producer who wants to move his grain must get a permit from a local committee and his county A.A.A. agent.

TAXES

7
Here is the latest for you from the income tax front. The surtax ~~rate~~ will start at twelve per cent and will be levied on the first dollar of your taxable income. On taxable incomes of six thousand dollars or more, the surtax will go up to twenty-three per cent. Taxable incomes of twenty-six thousand or more, fifty per cent. What is more, the normal income tax rate is up from four per cent to six per cent. That means, the first taxable dollar of your income will pay eighteen cents.
~~per cent cents.~~

All this was decided today by the Ways and Means Committee of the House. The Committee, however, has not complied with the proposal of President Roosevelt to tax higher incomes heavily enough to prevent anybody from earning more than twenty-five thousand a year. But if you earn two hundred thousand a year, you pay eighty-one per cent of it to ~~young~~ ^{the} Mr. Morgenthau. ~~treasury.~~

GASOLINE

8
The gasoline situation in the East is no better, says Oil Coordinator Ickes. When the present cards expire in June, there may be still more severe rationing. "The petroleum problem, ~~he added,~~ is one of the toughest, meanest, most misunderstood situations I have ever had to contend with," *said he.*

At the same time, the Office of Price Administration announced that workers who want bigger rations of gas must bring affidavits from their employers. They must furnish also complete facts showing why they need more.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt is among those who will not use her car any more. For all her personal pleasure trips or lecture tours, *she says* she will travel in railway day coaches or street cars. Only when she is *8/2* going anywhere as the President's wife, on an official trip, will she go in a motor. ~~She made her last use of~~

ADD GASOLINE

And, Here is the latest: ~~in the campaign to~~
~~conserve rubber and gasoline.~~ No more sightseeing
buses. ^{So} announces the Office of Defense Transportation.
^

That means everywhere, ~~in~~ New York, ~~as in~~ Hollywood,
and so on! Also,
and San Francisco. ~~Furthermore,~~ no more buses may be
^ chartered by private parties. They may be used only
for transporting members of the armed forces of the
United States or war workers or school children.

And now Hugh.