

C.I. - *Suroco*. Friday, May 5, 1940.

DEFENSE.

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The number ~~xxxxx~~ one American headline tonight concerns  
the President, the national <sup>*forces*</sup> guards of the forty-eight states, and  
the reserve forces of the ~~Army~~ and Navy. President Roosevelt wants  
the power to summon the national guards and the reserves <sup>*to summon them*</sup> to arms.

That was the dramatic surprise in today's special message to  
Congress -- the President asking Congress to give him the right to  
call the armed and trained man power of the nation into active  
service. <sup>*In other words all*</sup> Manpower short of full conscription -- the draft. Here's

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how the Presidential message explained the purpose: - "To maintain  
our position of neutrality and to safeguard the national defense."

The President referred to what he called -- "the almost  
incredible events of the past two weeks in the European conflict."  
He didn't say just what those incredible events were, but we know.

The past two weeks have been filled with the battle of Flanders --  
and the terrific sweep of the mechanized warfare of Nazi Germany.

The President <sup>*also spoke specifically of*</sup> ~~himself~~ spoke of -- the use of aviation and

mechanized equipment. Startling developments which, said he,

"necessitate another enlargement of our military program."

The chief executive of the United States, in addressing the Congress, referred to the possibility of this country getting into the war. He expressed it in this phrase: - "As long as a possibility exists that, not one continent or two continents, but all continents may become involved in a worldwide war." The President made the point that as long as that ~~possibility~~ possibility of worldwide war exists, the United States must take reasonable precaution to make its defense as near one hundred per cent as possible.

Last night the indication was that he would ask Congress to appropriate an additional billion dollars for armament. But it's more than that. The Presidential message today mentioned no precise figure. What he said was this:- "The amounts involved are large -- over one billion dollars." The understanding in Washington is that the figure will come to about <sup>9</sup>~~one~~ billion, and two hundred and fifty million. <sup>Which</sup> ~~That~~ will bring the total of defense money for the coming fiscal year away up to five billion dollars.

LATIN AMERICA.

Plenty of Americans are seeing the necessity of the United States having a whole string of air bases along both coasts in this hemisphere. If we're to protect the Americas against any aggression from abroad, we'll need the air bases to do it - plenty of them and conveniently situated.

Today, Congressman May, Chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, <sup>who was on this broadcast with me Tues. eve.,</sup> urged the Latin-American Republics to do <sup>today</sup> their bit for Western hemisphere defense - do it by giving the United States access to strategic sites for air bases. He put it in these words:- "The chief contribution the Latin-American countries can be expected to make is to permit the United States to establish air base fortifications in their territories."

And another thing - stamp out the Fifth Column in the American Republics. Secret agents of aggressive powers and their sympathizers are, what the Congressman called, "a real menace to the security of the Western hemisphere."

~~It was revealed that the Navy anticipates the possibility of - trouble in Mexico. This was stated by Rear Admiral Towers, Chief of the Navy Air Corps, <sup>it</sup> was revealed in testimony hitherto kept secret. Now we are told that Admiral Towers spoke to a~~

SABOTAGE.

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There's a lot of secrecy surrounding a series of incidents on the Pacific Coast, incidents classed as sabotage. At a place where water is pumped to the big Northrup Aircraft Factory, somebody sawed in two a wooden control bar on a pole supporting power lines. This, it is suspected, was for the purpose of impeding warplane construction for the Allies.

A southern Californian Power Company reports that switches had been cut off or damaged near El Secundo. That might have been intended to handicap a Douglas Aircraft plant in the vicinity. <sup>R</sup> The North American Aircraft Company nearby reports that a water pipe leading into the plant was clogged last week, and the water supply was cut off. Company officials think, however, this <sup>one</sup> may have been accidental.

The series of incidents has been investigated, and reports were filed today. They were labelled - "confidential; subversive activities." So we don't know what the sleuthing revealed.

SHIP.

The steamship President Roosevelt lay in harbor at Galway, Ireland today, and took aboard some three hundred and fifty Americans who have escaped from the war zones. All luggage was carefully searched. This, says the word from Galway - was a precaution against time bombs. Take <sup>ing</sup> no chance ~~of~~ having an infernal machine sneaked aboard -, for an explosion at sea.

During the past few days, there have been loud, if not blatant, warnings from Nazi Germany that the British might try to blow up the President Roosevelt - so the Germans might get blamed for it. I don't suppose anybody paid much attention to that, but at Galway today they were taking no chances of any possible trick with a time bomb.

WAR.

One of the famous things on this earth is the London fog - the blinding pea-souper that drifts over southern England and the English Channel. <sup>Londoners, and visitors to London, are</sup> ~~its a joke on Londoners, they're always~~ <sup>always</sup> grousing about that clammy wet blanket of white. But tonight the British have every reason in the world to bless the London fog - at least the part of it that extends across the English Channel. This is based on word from the Nazi German side. Today the official German News Agency ~~xxxxxxxx~~ announced - thick fog, dense mist covering the Channel shore, a blinding blanket over Dunkirk where the Allies are laboring at the desperate task of getting their trapped armies out of northern France. The German report declares that today the heavy fog greatly impeded the operations of the Hitler air force striking at Dunkirk. The white mist protected the evacuating allied troops from air bombs. This Nazi statement would indicate that <sup>tens of</sup> thousands of British lives have been and are being saved - by the fog, the old pea-souper which is such a nuisance in London.

They are being moved out by every sort of craft that the sea-going land of Great Britain can muster. A London dispatch

speaks of a rescue armada of hundreds of ships that today sailed in and out of Dunkirk harbor -- barges, tugs and even ancient stern wheel steamers. Some of the almost innumerable craft are making as many as four trips across the channel in twenty-four hours, a ferry service.

How many men have the Allies got out? How many will they get out? These are still the dominant questions. A dispatch from the South Coast of England declared today that one-half of the British expeditionary force is already back in England - together with thousands of French and Belgian soldiers. There are no official figures about how strong the British expeditionary force was to begin with, how many troops Britain sent across to France. The best surmises place the figure between three hundred and three hundred and fifty thousand. If one-half of these have been evacuated, it means that more than a hundred and fifty thousand British troops alone have been taken across the Channel.. another British source, however, estimated that if as many as a hundred thousand have been withdrawn, it would rank as a brilliant military achievement. That same source guessed that possibly \* two hundred and seventy thousand British and French troops were

still in the trap in Flanders.

From the German side we get a statement by the Nazi High Command as follows:- "Considerable numbers of French and British troops succeeded in embarking at Dunkirk last night, and were safely evacuated. But, " adds the Berlin High Command, "the main body is still in Flanders."

Then the official German war dispatch goes on to pay a tribute to the difficult allied operation. "The main body," it says, "is fighting a desperate rear guard action during the withdrawal to the coast. The retreat," the German account goes on,- has been orderly and has been carried on according to schedule."

Paris states that a considerable part of the army of General Prioux is in difficulty; Units which were cut off from the main armies in the trap. Paris reported last night that a couple of divisions of General Prioux's forces had broken through to Dunkirk. The remainder, however, are isolated, hemmed in and have not been able to battle their way through the Nazi <sup>encirclement.</sup> ~~encampments~~ As for General Prioux himself the Germans yesterday claimed to have captured him. Today Paris gives a semi-confirmation. A French



military spokesman stated that the Commander of the First French army must have been, as he said, "either killed or captured," because nothing has been heard from him."

Paris reports that the southern French army has captured Abbeville. That's the place where the Germans first closed the trap.

The stupendous battle of Flanders is about over, so that the world can begin to look at it in retrospect. The human side, the terrors and horrors of technological war, stagger <sup>the</sup> imagination.

No one will ever be able to picture in mind a mere fraction of that immense nightmare of anguish, fear, madness and heroism -- when the machine age let loose its diabolical science of death and mutilation upon millions -- <sup>upon</sup> giant armies and the piteous millions of civilians.

BATTLE.

Here is one thing to be noted, an historical slant. Throughout history the most brilliant victories have not usually been decisive. Look at those two supreme architects of victory - Hannibal and Napoleon. Their great battles are classics of triumph, yet both lost out in the end -- lost that one all-important battle, the last one.

The Germans in boasting of their success are making mention of that famous historical word, "C<sup>annae</sup>". Hannibal's greatest triumph was the first classic example of the strategy of envelopment, when he surrounded and destroyed the Roman army at C<sup>annae</sup>. The battle of Flanders, however, has a more striking resemblance to still another famous clash of arms, and that takes up to Napoleon.

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This is called to my attention by an American artist who lived and worked for twenty years in Paris, Paul Swan -- right now he's having an exhibition of portraits and landscapes in New York. Paul Swan remarks that French military men may take melancholy notice of the fact that the battle of Flanders has a striking strategic resemblance to the most brilliant battle that an army of

BATTLE -2.

France has ever won --- Austerlitz.

At Austerlitz, Napoleon pretended to attack the northern flank of the Austro-Russian army. That's a good deal like the Germans in northern Belgium, the Allies believing that the Nazi strategy was to smash around the northern tip of their line. At Austerlitz, the Russians and Austrians shifted large forces to their northern wing - to meet the outflanking threat. Thus they weakened their center. So did the Allies a couple of weeks ago -- transferring the mass of their power north into Belgium.

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Napoleon smashed through the weakened center, and split the enemy in two. So did the Nazi high command in the drive through the little Maginot line. Napoleon enveloped one wing, the southern wing. The Germans enveloped one wing of the Allies, the northern one. Napoleon drove the isolated wing against a net of frozen lakes, and his artillery broke the ice with cannon balls to cut off the retreat. The Germans drove the isolated allied armies against the English Channel, and struck with a hurricane of air bombs to keep them from escaping.

BATTLE - 3.

Yes, ~~as artist Paul Swan tells us,~~ French military men may take melancholy note of the resemblance of the battle of Flanders to the most brilliant of French victories --

Austerlitz, won by Napoleon. But in the end Napoleon didn't win, as we know.

FIFTH COLUMN.

The British drive against Fifth Column elements reveals today what purports to be a <sup>close</sup> tie between Hitler and the British Fascist Chief, Sir Oswald Mosley.

At Portsmouth, site of a British naval base, a woman named Mrs. Marie Louise Augusta Ingraham, was put on trial today -- together with several associates. She is said to be a German by birth and a sister-in-law of a staff officer in the German high command. She married a sergeant in the royal air force, and recently has been employed as a domestic in the household of a senior British naval officer who is engaged in important work for the Admiralty. Mrs. Ingraham is charged with having sought information about tanks, and with having tried to convey secret military documents to Germany.

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One witness testified that she told him that Nazi Germany would invade England in ~~the~~ three weeks with parachute troops, and that a pro-Nazi British Government would be set up. Who would head it? That's the point which makes Englishmen gasp a bit. Sir Oswald Mosley. The woman under arrest is quoted as having said: "Mosley and Hitler are like brothers," she declared.

The affair takes a turn of ugly fantasy, as the witness quote<sup>d</sup> the defendant as declaring ~~that the affair~~ *that the Nazis* takes a turn of ugly fantasy, as the testimony proceeds. ~~The witness quotes the defendant as declaring that Britain,~~ will publicly execute the London Cabinet, King George and the royal family. And Sir Oswald Mosley will become the ruler of Great Britain.

It sounds like a grotesque pipe dream, but such was the testimony at the trial in England today.

And now - Hugh *James*.

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