

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

From the shores of the North Sea to the northeast corner of France, a battle is raging such as the world has never seen. More than a hundred miles that Armageddon line is flung out. For more than a hundred miles the countryside is deafened by the roar of cannon throwing their ~~deadly~~ ^{ceaseless} tonnage of explosives in volume beyond belief. Over the heart of Belgium and the corner of Gallic soil, the skies are thick with clouds of airplanes, dropping their loads of destruction while others soar and zoom to fight them back. One guess is that Hitler has no fewer than seven thousand ~~of these murderous~~ ^{aircraft in} ~~aerial craft~~ ^{today's battle} blasting the way for his ~~rapid~~ mechanized columns. And More than a million men are ~~now~~ ^{tonight} fighting on that hundred mile line. ~~battleline.~~

Although ~~that battleline~~ ^{the line} stretches almost to the North Sea, there are two places where ~~its~~ ^{the} ferocity ~~has reached~~ ^{of the battle is at} a climax.

One of them is at Louvain, poor old Louvain, the scene of so much destruction and horror in the last war. Most of it, as you know, was rebuilt with money raised in American schools and

universities. ^{By today} ~~By this time~~ all that rebuilt splendor is again

~~smashed by Hitler's legions~~ ^{once more} in ruins. ~~For all we know, the invaders are again past that~~

~~historic old university town.~~ The latest report ^{is} ~~told us~~ that the

Nazis ^{are driving hardest in the direction of} ~~were pushing their deadliest and most intense thrust at~~

Brussels, and ~~of course~~ Louvain is only a few minutes drive by motor

from the Belgian capital. ^{It} ~~There~~ the Belgians are ^{now} ~~defending their~~

~~own soil~~ backed up ^{by} ~~with~~ highly mechanized British divisions. The

British, we learn, are holding the left wing of the defense, with

their extreme resting upon the Antwerp bastion, ^{taking the} ~~so there we have~~

^{blows from the} ~~the story of one~~ spearhead of the German striking force.

~~But~~ Just as fierce a fight is ^{also raging on French} ~~now being waged on the~~

soil ~~of France~~, near Sedan. ⁺ All ⁺ though the day, the German high

command has been ~~gloating~~ crowing in notes of triumph: "We have broken

the Maginot Line, [!] ~~We~~ have destroyed the legend that it is

impregnable!" And indeed it was admitted that they had advanced

~~on a short front~~, ten miles west of the River Meuse. The French

acknowledge that the invaders stormed across the river at three points.

The French commander-in-chief promptly hurled against

them ~~one~~ division after division of shock troops, fresh ^{sh}~~sh~~ troops.

Scores of divisions, is the official report.

They pushed back the invaders, pushed them back six miles.

Fresh reserves continued to be hurled into the breach by the

French. And the last ^{adriel}~~word~~ we had from that scene of ^{carnage}~~battle~~ was

~~of a conflict nothing short of desperate.~~ ^{tank} Tank is fighting against

18 tank; ~~and~~ battalion against battalion, ^{while} And overhead, ^{were clouds} all the while

~~thick clouds~~ ^{flocks of} of bombing planes, ~~thick as the ducks and geese we~~

~~saw flying north to Canada only a few weeks back.~~

But, The Maginot Line, ^{has not given way,} ~~as a matter of fact,~~ has not been

~~broken through.~~ The French explain that the line itself ends at a

~~place called~~ Longwy, on the border of Luxemburg. Beyond that is

what they describe as the Maginot extension, ^{that's} of more recent

origin than the Maginot Line. It wasn't started until the

King of the Belgians announced the neutrality of his country in case

And it was there
of war. ~~It was in that corner that~~ the Germans pushed over the

Meuse, hoping perhaps to execute a flanking movement around the

left of the ^{main} Maginot Line; and ^{they push on toward Paris and the} ~~strike over at Paris, or at the~~
important rail centers ~~of the~~ ^{ern} north of France. If the Nazis were
to reach those rail centers, ^{well, the French} ~~it would go hardly with the defenders,~~
^{desperately need} ~~as~~ their lines of communication ~~would be gravely hampered.~~

^{tonight} The news agency of Nazi Propaganda Minister Goebbels
utter the claim that Hitler's planes have destroyed the Allied

air forces. That of course is exaggerated. But the headquarters
of the Royal Air Force in France admits that the British striking
force is carrying out its mission in the face of heavy odds.

For instance, in one dog fight alone, a single squadron of German
fighting ships numbered no fewer than fifty-four -- fifty-four in

one squadron and among them were many dive-bombers of the latest
model Junkers. ^{and-} They were attacked by six British ^{Hurricane fighters.} ~~Harrigan~~ planes.

Many of the British pilots are ^{nearing the limit of human} ~~almost~~ exhausted because there aren't

enough of them. They have to keep in continuous action. No sooner

do they come to ground than they are ordered up again. However,

^{comparatively} the British add that the Germans did ^{little} damage considering the

number of their planes and the frequency of their raids.

One cable from London reports that the tension all along the line was at its highest pitch today. ^{all the more} ~~And it was made~~
~~all the worse~~ because of a new threat from Hitler's forces.

~~All~~ Train traffic between Germany and Switzerland ~~has been~~ suspended! That revives the threat of a Nazi push around the

southern end of the Maginot Line. ^{TP} The northwest corner of Switzerland is flat and ^{might} ~~could easily~~ be stormed by a swift

spearhead thrust of ~~the~~ Nazi mechanized ^{div} visions. Of course this

has been ^{hinted} ~~heard~~ before, ~~and tonight we heard the same ruling rumors~~ ^{But} ~~similar~~

~~frequently about Holland until it became so tragically verified.~~

^{the} ~~In Britain itself~~ ^{the} the people are waiting hourly in

expectation of raids. The Nazis proclaimed another warning today.

Every foot of the coastline of the Low Countries occupied by

German troops brings nearer the thrust against England. Air bases

in the Netherlands already have brought bombing attacks "closer

to England's heart" that's the way the Nazis put it.

The British authorities are ^{rushing the} ~~again~~ ^{not} ~~evacuating the~~ children

from London. ^{TP} ~~And~~ a radio message from Brussels announced ^S that the

two sons and one daughter of King Leopold are now safe on British territory.

A dispatch from Stockholm indicates that the first attacks on Britain may come from the Nazi air bases in Norway. Hitler has been concentrating large numbers of planes along the Norwegian coast. And, in spite of the divisions he has fighting in Belgium and France, not only planes but soldiers are still being sent into Norway, to Oslo.

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There's another report; that the Allies have destroyed Narvik and driven the Germans out of that port. The Allied forces are supposed to include Norwegian, British, French and Polish soldiers. There are twelve thousand of them, and they are said to be driving the Germans toward the Swedish border. However, *This is not* ~~that's just an unconfirmed report.~~

Here's a bulletin ~~that~~ just came in. It
~~announces~~ *It says that the* From the German High Command. ~~The~~ Nazi armies
will lay siege to ~~the~~ Brussels with all the horrors
horrors of war,
if the Allies do not immediately stop moving troops through
Belgian
the ~~Belgian~~ capital. The German advance guard ~~there~~ is now
reported to be
~~now~~ only eighteen miles ~~to the~~ east of Brussels.

WILHELMINA

A gray haired lady, fifty-nine years old, driven out of her country, sat in front of a microphone in London today. It was Her Majesty Wilhelmina, Queen of the Netherlands, a refugee-sovereign broadcasting a message while gray uniformed invaders were taking possession of her palaces, while whole cities in her kingdom were ^{going} ~~roaring~~ up in flames, while ~~in~~ Nazi hordes were over-running every square ^{yard} ~~inch~~ of her homeland except ^{that} one tiny section, in Zeeland. Some of her cities were ablaze ^{today} because the Dutch set fire to their large reserves of oil and gasoline sooner than let them fall into Hitler's hands.

~~And indeed, it was about at that moment when General~~

²
~~Gen.~~ ^{Wilhelmina's} Winkleman, ^{her} Commander-in-Chief, ^{after} ~~was~~ signing the capitulation of the Dutch Army, ⁱⁿ ~~In~~ a radio broadcast, ~~General Winkleman~~ urged the people not to show the slightest hostile attitude toward the conquering Germans.

~~Queen Wilhelmina's~~ Minister in Paris ^{today} declared that one out of every four ^{Dutch} soldiers had been killed in action. It is believed that no fewer than one hundred thousand of the fighters of the Netherlands lost their lives before ^{yesterday's} ~~General Winkleman's~~ surrender.

^{the '15}
In ~~Queen Wilhelmina's~~ broadcast she made no attempt at pathos, no appeal to tears, though tears must have been close to the

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eyes of many who heard her. She explained that she and her people had hoped up to the last, hoped against hope, that it would be possible to limit the conflict in Europe. "But," she added, "all our fervent prayers for common understanding between nations have proved futile." ^{TP} Except for that tone, the elderly Queen's message was undaunted, even hopeful. "Morally," she said, "we can never be conquered. But no happiness can be expected in this world until Germany is defeated. Our spirit will remain unbroken. I am convinced," she ^{added,} ~~said further,~~ "that my people will never give up their faith in the cause of freedom and justice, notwithstanding the oppression under which they will live until the country is free again." ^{TP} To which she added a prayer for the dawn of the day when freedom will be restored to the Netherlands and to all other victims of German aggression. ^{TP} Queen Wilhelmina will deliver a broadcast especially to the United States at nine o'clock tonight, Eastern Daylight Savings Time. In spite of the occupation of Holland, Dutch business and enterprise is not going to stop. A cable from Singapore reports that the principal banks of Holland have transferred their headquarters to Batavia, capital of the Netherlands East Indies Empire. The Rotterdam Lloyd Shipping Company has also transferred its headquarters to the colonial capital in Java.

KAISER

24 Twenty-six years ago, a man with pointed mustaches ^{and} ~~wrote~~
~~a~~ ^a ~~withered arm~~ ^{signed his name}
~~his signature~~ [^] to a document in Berlin. It was the historic order
for war, the paper that ^{in 1914} sent gray clad millions ^{goose stepping into} ~~trouping into~~
Belgium and France. I mean, of course, the ex-Kaiser, ~~Wilhelm the~~
~~Second~~.

Of late years, those famous mustaches have been replaced
by a gray beard, and the man whose signature started a war has been
~~as we all know~~
[^] a quiet country gentleman on an aristocratic estate in Holland.
^{a few days ago}
Ever since his countrymen [^] invaded the land that gave him refuge,
people have been wondering what was happening to him. One of his
grandchildren said today:- "We don't know, we haven't heard from
Grandpa since this business began." The question was asked of the
authorities in Berlin and a spokesman for the Nazis declared that
the former Kaiser ^{is not only} ~~naturally, is~~ quite safe ^{but} ~~As a matter of fact,~~
~~he~~ has been free to return to his large estates in Germany any time
he wanted. ~~But~~ ^{just another} He rates today as [^] German citizen. When the
blitzkrieg started, the government of the Netherlands offered to
move the ~~Kaiser~~ Kaiser, so say the Germans. But he ^{said he} preferred to
~~— and remain the squire at Doorn.~~
stay [^] ~~where he was, walking on the green lawns of his country-place.~~

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There was fighting near Doorn, but ^{the word today again is} ~~it is reported that the Germans~~
~~that the~~ ^(High Command) German ~~generals~~ ^{not} gave orders ~~that nothing should be done~~ to disturb

the old gentleman, that the thunder of warfare should be kept as

far ^{away} ~~from his doors~~ as possible. ^{from the War Lord}
who once dreamed of world empire
just as Hitler dreams today.

DIPLOMATS

American diplomats in Holland and Belgium are staying on the job. Secretary Hull says they will stay there until further notice. Since nearly all of Holland has surrendered, there is no more danger at The Hague. *And, even though* ~~and although~~ Brussels is at this moment being bombarded, Ambassador Cudahy has shown no inclination to leave his post.

STOCKS

Wall Street took a bracer this afternoon and put a stop to that slump in the Stock Market. But the bears did not quit until the market value of American securities had been cut down by more than six billion dollars. ^{it} At closing time, some of the war babies had ^{even} ~~even~~ taken a rise. But the grain market continued to go down. The price of ^{wheat,} ~~white~~ for instance, dropped once more ^{to} ~~by~~ ten cents. ^{The day -} ~~And that's the~~ limit allowed by law. ~~nowadays, dropped for~~ ~~the second consecutive day.~~

COMMUNISTS

The move against a Trojan Horse on this side of the water took shape today in two places. At Ottawa, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the Province of Ontario, declared that "in accordance with the regulations and in my discretion, I see fit to declare the Communist Party of Canada an illegal organization."

With that he passed sentence on three men, Communists who had been convicted of putting out pamphlets concerning the present struggle in Europe. They were sentenced to terms in jail from two and a half to three years in addition to heavy fines. One of them is a newspaperman, another a soldier, and another was in the civil service.

In our own Congress, there came up today the name of Harry Bridges, C.I.O. leader on the West Coast. The Congressmen want to have him deported. It will be remembered that Dean Landis of the Harvard Law School held a hearing and gave Bridges a bill of health, said he was no Communist. Nevertheless he may soon find himself on his way back to Australia. The Committee on Immigration in the House today reported a bill to deport him.

DEFENSE

~~And now, what about our own affairs? More particularly,~~

W *all*
~~What about~~ the agitation to strengthen the defense forces of

Uncle Sam, which are said to ~~be needed~~ *need it* badly in spite of all the billions that have been poured out?

President ~~Roosevelt~~ has ~~almost finished~~ *nearly completed* the special

message that he has been preparing. Congress will ~~have~~ *get* it

tomorrow. The exact sum he will ask is not announced; ~~but~~ *But* it's

believe to be ~~pretty close to one~~ *around a* billion dollars. One report

has it that the exact figure will be nine hundred and eighty-two

millions. That would include both direct appropriations and funds

to be authorized by Congress. Of this the Army is to get

seven hundred and thirty-two millions; the Navy two hundred and

fifty millions.

It was made public today that Uncle Sam's army Air

Corps is calling back two hundred flyers to active duty,

pilots, who had been retired for physical disability. ~~They're to~~ *These are to*

become ~~be used as~~ instructors and also ~~in~~ *hold down* executive jobs now ~~being~~ filled

by younger men.

Also, President Roosevelt signed an order to make more men available for enlistment, cutting down the restrictions.

Another order calls for an increase in the strength of the numbers of the Army Medical Corps.

8/2
The Naval Affairs Committee of the Senate filed a report today. It spoke up for an immediate passage of the Vinson Bill, a bill that the House has already passed. This authorizes a eleven per cent increase in the Navy. The Committee also reversed itself on the question of Guam. It calls for the building up of that island in the far western Pacific as a strong naval and air base.

~~At the same time, the Senators declare that we have nothing to be alarmed about. A report says the armies of Europe and Asia do not menace us. To be a menace, they must be transported across the sea in ships. Airplanes based on the continents of Europe and Asia do not menace us. ^{To} ~~The~~ threaten seriously our continental security they must be conveyed across the sea and operated from bases in or near this hemisphere.~~ That's the opinion of the Naval Affairs Committee.

All the Scripps-Howard newspapers carried a strongly worded editorial today, urging that Uncle Sam buy up all the British, French, and Dutch islands in the Caribbean, the Bahamas, the Bermudas, Martinique, and Trinidad. and have them ready as possible air bases. They would serve a twofold purpose. It would give the Allies more cash for carrying on the war, money which they need so desperately. And it would give this continued the protection in the Caribbean that it needs. The Scripps-Howard newspapers suggest that the other American countries be given a chance to have a share in the buying of those islands.

Here's a dispatch just handed me -- the State Department advised all Americans throughout Europe to return home!

And now Hugh James.