

L.T. SUNOCO - FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1941

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight I am broadcasting from the State of Maryland. From that section of Maryland familiarly known as the Eastern Shore. The exact spot from which I am speaking is the Wicomico Hotel, in the City of Salisbury. Rumor has it that the President of the United States will be coming ashore some time early tomorrow. Will he land here as he did a year ago? Two United States Senators are sitting beside me. I'll put the question to them in a few moments.

That the return of President Roosevelt to American soil will probably occur tomorrow morning is the indication in Washington -- following a statement made by Acting White House Secretary Hassett. He stated that the President today sent a radio message saying that he will be back again on land shortly, Saturday morning says the rumor in Washington.

It would appear that President Roosevelt is back on the yacht Potomac, after having transferred to the Cruiser Augusta for his history-making conferences with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. These occurred also on H.M.S. Prince of Wales. Distance, time and navigation being taken into consideration, a presidential landing along the coast of Maine is indicated, and Rockland seems to be the most probable point. He'll be greeted by just about as large a force of newspapermen as ever assembled. The White House word is that the President upon going ashore, will promptly hold a press conference. Which certainly is enough to put the newspapermen on their toes. Representatives of nearly all the important newspapers in the United States are assembling in Maine, waiting for the naming of the time and place. They have plenty of questions to ask. They want to query the President about things not revealed in

yesterday's announcement of the eight point peace program. They'll ask -- what definite plans have been made, ^{what} ~~xxxxxx~~ program of action?

Franklin D. Roosevelt is famous as a press conference President. He handles the assembled newspapermen with rare skill, and usually with real enjoyment. Now ~~xx~~ when he land he will be have a chance to show his press conference talents to the limit. Meanwhile in Washington, there's a blast because no American newspapermen were taken along on the voyage that climaxed with the Roosevelt-Churchill meeting. Congressman Harold Knutson of Minnesota said the London papers were able to print a good deal about the conversations at sea -- facts that were withheld from the press of the United States. And indeed London tells us that representatives of the British Ministry of Information accompanied Prime Minister Churchill. "It is probable" declared Congressman Knutsen "that Mr. Churchill would have left the news boys at home if he had dared do so. But," he adds "the Englishman demands to be kept fully aware of what is going on in his government."

Then why didn't President Roosevelt take press representatives along? "Has he," asks the Congressman, "entered into commitments of which we know nothing, and which might arouse the

American people, were they made public." The Minnesota lawmaker adds that he hopes the President will take the American people fully into his confidence upon his return.

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London today gives us a surmise that a good deal of what transpired on the ocean is known only to the President and the Prime Minister. They met frequently by themselves -- this in addition to the deliberations attended by other American and British officials. They agreed upon things known only to themselves. So says an official British source today. Things that may not be disclosed for some time.

London continues to insist that in the meeting at sea, the large emphasis was on Soviet Russia. The President and Prime Minister concentrated on plans to help the Red Army in its battle against Nazi Germany. Much attention was paid to the possibility that Japan might try to block American and British supplies sent to Vladivostok. Japan will not be allowed to interfere with aid to the Soviets -- ~~this~~ was a determination formed by Churchill and Roosevelt, says London. Some confirmation was given to this in a

statement by an authoritative British source today. He was asked about the question of Tokyo and supplies shipped to Vladivostok. His response was as follows: "Britain will do her best to secure fulfillment of the policy adopted regarding aid to Russia." And implied warning to Japan that interference with Soviet shipments will not be tolerated. We hear that in the secret conferences on the Atlantic, aid to the Red Navy was discussed -- as well as to the Red Army. The sea power wielded by Stalin is threatened by the Nazi fleet in the Baltic. How to give help in that area.

We continue to hear that a joint Roosevelt Churchill message of encouragement was sent to Stalin in Moscow., and this leads to a further report that the message to Stalin was preliminary to a further move for American-British-Soviet collaboration, London states that missions will be sent by the United States and Great Britain to discuss with Stalin the largest kind of aid to the Soviets. And over a long period of time as well as in the immediate crisis of war.

In Washington, Secretary of State Hull said today that he hoped that Soviet Russia would rally to the Roosevelt-Churchill program for a new world order. The secretary was asked whether he

would welcome a Moscow okay of the Eight Point Plan -- an endorsement by Stalin? He replied that he hoped and expected that every peaceful and civilized nation would do so -- including the Soviets.

Tonight's war news comes mostly from Moscow. Berlin, after yesterday's immense claim of victory, had little to say today. The German High Command confined itself to the usual brevity:- "operations as usual." So we must turn to Moscow for the bulk of the news. Today's bulletin, in a way, tells yesterday's story. We have a Red Army version of the German military successes in the Ukraine.

The army of Marshall Budenny is conducting an orderly retreat, a strategic withdrawal -- say the Soviets. They admit that the Blitzkrieg forces have advanced more than sixty miles in the Ukraine. From London we hear that the Red Army ~~is~~ in the southern sector is retreating behind the Dnieper River. Abandoning the territory west of the great loop made by that stream. Behind the Dnieper they'll stand and defend again. London concedes to the Nazis vast wheat lands and great industrial areas. The question being -- how much of these will the Germans get? How much will the Russians destroy? British military authorities picture the Red Army retreat as a vast affair, but an orderly withdrawal not only of military forces, but of the entire population. And they're scorching the earth, destroying the crops

and burning towns and factories.

The Red Army bulletin today tells of heavy fighting along the whole fighting front from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Emphasis is placed on a new German drive in the area of Leningrad. The armored divisions of the Nazis are advancing there, and maybe this angle of Moscow news points to a new phase -- a switching of the attack to the North, Leningrad.

CRASH

Today brought news of a second crash in the trans-Atlantic ferry service -- a second tragic mishap to the organization that flies the bombers across the ocean to Britain. It happened yesterday and was revealed today. The accident resembles that similar previous crash last Sunday. In both cases the planes that came to grief were big transport ships flying ferry pilots back across the ocean. The aviators had taken bombers to Britain, and were returning.

In both cases disaster came as the plane was leaving.

Last Sunday, shortly after taking off, as we already know, a big transport flew into a hillside. Yesterday the calamity occurred at the take-off. As the plane got off the ground it crashed and burned. In each case all lives were lost. Last Sunday -- twenty-two. Seven were Americans. Yesterday, the number of fatalities again was twenty-two. This time -- twelve Americans.

One of the Britishers aboard was Arthur Purvis, head of the British Purchasing Committee to the United States who has figured prominently in Washington in the operation of the Lend-Lease Bill for Aid to Britain. He had returned to London briefly and was on his way back to the United States.

Among the Americans were ferry pilots of considerable

note in the world of aviation. One was Captain Elbert Beard Landing, of Texas. He was a nephew of the late Dan Beard, legendary leader of the Boy Scouts. Captain Tex Landing was a veteran of exotic flying adventures. He flew in Santa Domingo, for the Dominican Republic. Then was a cotton duster in the south -- spraying cotton fields in an airplane. Afterwards he had a flying service of his own in Souther America. Finally he enlisted in the transAtlantic ferry service for sending bombers to Britain.

Another American killed in this second crash was Captain Martin Wetzel of Jamesburg, New Jersey, a pilot noted for a varied career. He had been a bricklayer, a prize-fighter and a cabaret dancer -- before he became an aviator and flew bombers to Britain.

With the crashes of last Sunday and yesterday, the trans-Atlantic ferry service had two disasters in five days -- one much like the other. From what we hear, the flying bombers across to Britain has been accomplished with little loss. The bad luck has come on the way back.

FRANCE

The Nazi conquerors are having their troubles in occupied France. The news tells of outbreaks, rioting sabotage all around disturbance. The Germans call it -- Communist and Jewish. Today a warning was issued by the Nazi general in command. He says the entire population will suffer if the disorders continue. And he issued a decree stating that any one who aids in what he calls "Communist disorders", shall be shot by Nazi firing squads. This drastic death penalty order measures the magnitude of the seething and smoldering in France under German rule.

At the same time, there's trouble made by elements that are ~~mixing~~ anti-British and Anti-Jewish. The Vichy government is investigating the bombing of a Jewish synagogue and have raided a veritable arsenal of bombs maintained by bands of French Fascists.

SALISBURY

Of course it isn't certain that the President will come ashore up in Maine. The whole thing is still a mystery. Senator Tydings do you think there is any chance that he will put in here on the Eastern Shore?

SENATOR TYDINGS:- Sorry, but the President hasn't sent me any advance information on it. But, if he does happen to be off our eastern shore tonight, or in the morning, he'll want to do some marlin fishing. The marlin are running now. And, fishing for marlin is one of the finest sports in the world.

L.T. About all the information I've gotten is that the marlin are running. This eastern shore is a fisherman's paradise. It also is known as the "bread basket of the East," a peninsula covered with farms where tomatoes, melons, beans and so many other things are raised for the markets of nearby large cities.

This afternoon in company with Congressman Ward, and Commander Ralph Hallett of the Navy Engineering Department, I went through a model factory here in Salisbury, the Martin and Schwartz plant where machine tools are being turned out for national defense purposes. I came back somewhat bewildered by what I saw, the efficiency, and the way these young men of the eastern shore have taken to the handling of intricate mechanisms.

SEA LION

Fifth Avenue, New York had a new experience today, when a big sea lion went waddling along that fashionable thoroughfare. In the pool of the sunken garden here at Rockefeller Center, they've been displaying a troupe of Sea Lions, and today were removing them. One of them escaped, a four hundred and fifty pound hunk of blubber named Peter. And over to Fifth Avenue, he went, waggling along on his flippers. Women shoppers went scurrying, as Peter the Sea Lion lunged at them, barking and snorting.

Then occurred a thing which would seem to prove that Sea Lions have delicate noses. On the avenue was a perfume shop. Peter sniffed with an expression of happiness, like Ferdinand the Bull smelling a flower. And into the perfume shop went the sea-lion -- to the dismay of clerks and customers.

In the story he ~~was~~ was still sniffing the fragrance of the air when the keepers took control, and put the perfume loving Sea Lion in a cage.

SEWING MACHINE

A strange sort of theft was disclosed in New York today -- an organized stealing of sewing machines from factories manufacturing army uniforms. Five members of a robber gang have been arrested and have donfessed. They specialized in breaking into uniform factories and taking the sewing machines used for army stiching. One of them was the operator of a sewing machine repair shop. He disposed of the stolen goods.

New York District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey stated today that the mob has been operating for a year, and stole sewing machines in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Ninety have been recovered -- in the breaking up of a singular gang of crooks who preyed on the army uniform industry.

BULLET

A story of the heroism and fortitude of a seventeen year old girl comes from Meanford, Ontario. Tonight June Mottershaw is in a hospital with a bullet hole through her chest. She came to the Hospital today, after suffering from that dangerous wound since last Tuesday -- and saying nothing to anybody about it.

June shot herself accidentally with a thirty-two calibre revolver. The bullet pierced the base of her left lung, just below the heart. Nobody saw the mishap and June was afraid to tell anybody about it -- afraid to go to a doctor. She thought her parents would not be able to pay the doctor bill. They were poor, and she didn't want to cause them that much expense. So, injured in so perilous a way, she went about as if nothing had happened. She ate at meal time, slept at night, and answered the door at her home and talked to various friends. That -- for two days. Then finally she couldn't keep the secret any longer and mentioned to a girl friend how she had shot herself. Not that June was weakening about it but apparently she just couldn't keep a secret. Taken to a hospital, the Doctor said the bullet wound might easily have been fatal, but they found no infection -- and June is getting well. Hugh, can you match that?