

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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The most significant war news tonight is that the British have got back those oil fields at Mosul in Iraq. Ground troops went in backed up by bombers and fighters of the Royal Air Force and took complete possession of the whole district. It was a swift armored column that swept up the valley of the Tigris from Baghdad and rolled over the opposition. The British commanders found that not much damage had been done to the oil wells or the pumping machinery. <sup>So</sup> Oil will be flowing again through the pipe lines to Palestine quite soon.

That puts all of Iraq once more ~~firmly~~ in the hands of the Imperial forces. It was believed that a German detachment had occupied Kirkuk, but today it turns out that this place is in the hands of Iraqis who are sympathetic to the British.

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These movements make the speculation about a British advance upon Syria all the more lively. The Royal Air Force bombed oil tanks at Beirut, and aroused protests from the French. The critics at home continue to clamor for the high command of the Middle East to take the initiative, beat the Nazis to Syria at least.

There's a good deal of mystery about the appointment of a new commanding officer. The announcement was made in London today that Lieutenant-General Sir Marshall-Cornwell is now ~~the~~ general officer, Commander-in-Chief. But it doesn't say what he's to command. The only additional information is that he has been in close consultation with the Turkish general staff for several weeks. Sir Archibald Wavell still is head of the high command of the Imperial forces in the Middle East.

Turning our eyes homewards, we find the war coming closer and closer to our shores. Fascist and Nazi warships are raiding two-thirds of the way across the Atlantic. In fact they have been at work within seven hundred miles of the

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North American continent. In one single day, four British vessels were torpedoed east of Labrador and three hundred and fifty miles to the south of Greenland. That would be in an area ~~that is~~ presumed to be covered by the neutrality patrol of the United States. ~~This~~<sup>means</sup> that submarines of the Axis powers have been cruising and destroying fourteen hundred miles west of Ireland. And it takes underwater craft of unusually long range to do that.

DAKAR

In his fireside chat last week, President Roosevelt referred gravely to the danger of the Nazis getting Dakar, that French fortress on the west coast of Africa. A London newspaper today makes the claim that Dakar is already a German stronghold. <sup>That</sup> The Nazis are using it as a submarine base; and <sup>that</sup> U-boats from there have practically blockaded the ~~entire~~ Cape Verde Islands. Admiral Darlan has given Hitler the use not only of Dakar, says the LONDON NEWS CHRONICLE, but also five other French bases, including Beirut in Syria, Algiers, Ville-France, Casablanca, and <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ harbor ~~of Cette,~~ west of Marseilles.

An official denial of this <sup>comes from</sup> ~~charge was later issued~~ <sup>that</sup> at Vichy, The Petain Government has not allowed the Nazis the use of six harbors as the LONDON NEWS CHRONICLE charges, ~~so says~~ Vichy.

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Our Ambassador, Admiral Leahy, went to the government offices at Vichy today for an interview with Marshal Petain. He went to ask the French chief of state what's what: what about all these reports of the new French policy, what are their plans for collaborating with the Axis, what about the tension between

France and Great Britain? What the aged Marshal said to Admiral Leahy we know not. But, Vichy continues the strongest denials that the French have asked the Germans to defend Syria. There's the strictest kind of censorship in Vichy tonight, and no correspondents are allowed even to speculate upon the possible terms of collaboration with the Nazis.

However a still later statement from Vichy indicates that the irritation between the French and the British grows more and more acute. With the Petain Government officially making the charge that Great Britain was preparing a plan of action against Syria. That statement was issued immediately after Leahy had had his interview with Marshal Petain.

KAISER

Twenty-seven years ago, the most important, at least the most feared personage in Europe was a strutting, tempestuous man whose upturned spiked mustache was considered the barometer of international politics. If the spikes had a particularly fierce twist to them, look out! <sup>In those days nearly</sup> Everybody thought that peace or war depended upon the moods and whims of the German Kaiser, Wilhelm the Second, <sup>the</sup> a direct descendant of Frederick the Great. In private conversation he would often comment plaintively upon his unpopularity, wonder why people abused him so, why they considered him a person to be feared. <sup>Then —</sup> Before many years had elapsed, historic events showed that he was right in one particular, he was indeed not a person to be feared. Less than four and a half years after he had signed the seven letters of his name to a declaration of war that he <sup>himself</sup> did not want, he was a fugitive <sup>— in</sup> and an exile.

Events also proved the hollowness of the reputation he had built up for himself as <sup>the</sup> a great War Lord. Two years after the <sup>Great War</sup> war started, he was virtually a prisoner of the German general staff. <sup>And</sup> he had <sup>as little</sup> less to do with the actual planning of campaigns or the movements of armies <sup>as</sup> than the humblest clerk in the War Office.



A dethroned monarch, he might have been one of the great tragic figures of history. Early this morning in that castle at Doorn, the Kaiser died - died almost a forgotten man. He failed to become a great tragic figure, because he survived his great disaster, and lived on for twenty-three years with a second wife -- liveing the life of a comfortable- grey-bearded prosaic country squire. While a plebeian, a half-educated corporal led Germany to the conquest that Wilhelm had so grandiously talkēd about.

His more doughty ancestor, Frederick the Great, in his difficult years, used to carry poison with him so that he might never survive the ignominy of defeat. But the late Wilhelm the Second was made of different stuff.

Some people think the Hohenzollerns might eventually have come back to power if Wilhelm had expiated defeat by losing his life, say in a desperate and futile charge upon the French front trenches. But the generals took no chance of anything like that. They hustled him over the border into Holland, as fast as they could.

There is no doubt but what the Kaiser thought he really was all the things his flatterers wrote and said about him - a great artist, a great poet, a great administrator, and a great war lord. One of his general officers visiting here after the war was questioned

about Wilhelm's military capacity. The question was put rather bluntly, "Was the All-Highest really a competent military leader?" The ex-general replied, "We in the army always thought of him as an artist, a musician and a poet." There happened to be a handful of poets and critics present who burst into rude uncontrolled laughter.

*Indeed*

The late Kaiser's verses were in private the joke of all the literate circles throughout his empire. German art critics used to wince at the ugly statues with which Wilhelm cluttered up Berlin.

He was one of those unfortunate persons who seem unable to put themselves right in the public eye. Even when he did the right thing he would <sup>*appear to*</sup> do it the wrong way, ~~or in a way which would appear wrong.~~ His marriage for the second time to the Princess Hermine of Reuss would, in the case of any other man, have aroused public sentimentality in his favor. In Wilhelm's case, for no good reason, it struck a sour note. Even the widely published adoration of that second wife excited no general sympathy for him. <sup>*He seemed to have*</sup> ~~He had~~ a genius for provoking dislike. In fact some people believe that the encirclement of Germany, of which Wilhelm used to complain, was caused by the intense dislike of his Uncle, King Edward the Seventh of Great Britain. <sup>*TR*</sup> The explanation for most of his misfortunes is that he was emotionally unstable.



But reports from Germany are that the passing of the Ex-Kaiser has aroused no emotion there whatsoever. The best that the Nazi newspapers could say about him was to talk at length about Wilhelm's interest and admiration for the accomplishments of the Fuehrer. As another <sup>German</sup> spokesman put it, "We'll say nothing but good about the dead."

And so passes the man whose countrymen once called him the All-Highest!

RUMOR

The rumor tonight is that Hitler is about to form a United States of Europe. Something of the sort has been hinted at frequently, but today the rumor became more definite.

Perhaps that was one of the things the Fuehrer discussed with the Duce last Monday when they met at Brenner Pass.

This report comes from Switzerland and is made public by Austrian refugees in the United States. For instance, Count Ferdinand Czernin, son of a former foreign minister of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Archduke Otto of Hapsburg, Pretender to the throne of Austria, when asked about it replied that he had similar information from Lisbon, but up to now had not considered it substantial enough to make it public.

The details of the plan as reported from Geneva are for Berlin to be the capital of Europe. The federation to embrace Portugal, Switzerland and Sweden. Also -- ~~xx~~ the three remaining neutral countries in Europe. Of course one important detail is that Hitler would make all Europe a customs union, free trade all over the continent. Also, once currency for all Europe, no more francs, pesos, and lira -- just marks. Also, one army which would of course be under the German High Command, with maybe a few Italian officers

WINANT

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There has been the hottest kind of speculation about the visit ~~of~~ home of His Excellency, John G. Winant, United States Ambassador to London. Most of the rumors around Washington have it that he brought a message to President Roosevelt from Churchill which was an urgent cry of distress, an appeal for help. Secretary Hull was asked whether Winant had brought a request for the United States to go into the war. The Secretary said emphatically and categorically, "No."

OIL

The office of Production Management in Washington asks the petroleum industry to step up its production of high octane gasoline, the type used in planes.

On top of which there comes a statement from Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes. This Cabinet officer says that every private citizen and every industrial enterprise in the East will have to make some sort of adjustment to save oil. Secretary Ickes then announced later today that he hopes to have a plan ready by tomorrow.

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J. Howard Pew, President of the Sun Oil Company, today was asked to give his opinion about all this. "At the beginning of this year," replied Mr. Pew, "the oil industry was prepared to produce, refine, transport and distribute oil to meet all peace-time American demands for petroleum products, and also all American requirements for these products due to the national emergency.

"In anticipation of possible contingencies," he goes on, "the oil industry had placed orders for sufficient additional tanker tonnage to increase by over thirty percent its capacity for carrying petroleum and its products.

"Recently, however, the Government has requisitioned fifteen American tankers," points out Mr. Pew. These "to assist in delivery of petroleum to Great Britain." And he adds that "still more of our tankers may be taken for this service." But he says, "if no more vessels are requisitioned the industry should be able to meet all demands -- provided it can utilize all its transportation facilities at maximum efficiency, and receive the full cooperation of consumers, Government and other agencies."

The President of the Sun Oil Company went on to say:

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"It is our hope that by the efficient coordination and use of the carrying capacity of the American tankers that have been requisitioned together with the vessels already under British control, the requisition of further tankers will be unnecessary."

Then the statement concludes as follows: "Should further demand be made on our tanker fleet before completion of the ships now under construction, there will inevitably be necessity for some restriction of the use of petroleum products along the Atlantic seaboard."



## HOPKINS

The newspapers of London today carried front page stories about that article which "Lend-Lease Director Harry Hopkins wrote for the AMERICAN MAGAZINE, the one I mentioned yesterday. In which Hopkins set forth his belief that Hitler won't win. In the capitals of the South American countries newspapers today carried the story and referred to Hopkins as the First Assistant to President Roosevelt. They made much of the fact that Harry Hopkins lives in the Casa Blanca, as they call the White House. The official news agency of Soviet Russia obtained special permission from the AMERICAN MAGAZINE to cable the entire article to Moscow.

HUGHES

It's interesting to hear a comment on Chief Justice Hughes by his probable successor. As we heard last night, that probable successor is Attorney General Robert H. Jackson. The Attorney General issued a statement in which he places Hughes in the same category with the great John Marshall. Said the Attorney General: "It was their constructive use of the judicial power that placed both of them among the first statesmen of the Republic."

## EDELSTEIN

Congressman Edelstein of New York made a speech in the House today, a speech so impassioned that apparently it brought on his death. It was in answer to a discourse by Representative Rankin of Mississippi. Congressman Rankin, who is a non-interventionist, was repeating the old charge that Wall Street bankers and international Jews were at the back of a movement to thrust America into the war.

The charge was taken up instantly by Congressman Edelstein, of New York. Afterward the Congressman went into the lobby, and was talking to a friend, when suddenly he threw up his arms and collapsed.

The House Physician announced that he had died of a heart attack, brought on by the excitement of his speech.