

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, May 17, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Thanks Hugh. Yes, I escaped from the world of reality for a few hours this morning, long enough to meet a lot of young fellows who have just finished their college work and are about to set forth on their next big adventure -- which we all hope will not include any such horrible fate as tonight faces millions of young men of their ages in Europe.

This is the two hundredth year for the University of Pennsylvania. And, all through the year they are having celebrations of one sort or another. In the autumn educators from all over the world will be coming there to join President Gates and his colleagues in what is expected to be the largest gathering of distinguished educators ever held on this continent. By then, in addition to celebrating the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the University of Pennsylvania I hope they will be able to also celebrate the end of this second world war, the news of which is more tragic than ever tonight.

WAR

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The Germans have shattered <sup>their way through</sup> the Maginot Line - not the main system of underground fortifications, but the extension of the Maginot Line which France built to cover the Belgian frontier. So the unbelievable thing has happened. The motorized cohorts of the Nazis have swept into France. Berlin claims that its armored columns have smashed through on a front of sixty miles, a line from <sup>Maubeuge</sup> ~~Moubeuge~~ to Sedan. Two mechanized columns are driving — ~~forward~~, one in the direction of Paris, the other toward the ports on the English Channel. <sup>TR</sup> A dispatch from London declares, The Germans are driving toward Laon and Marle, about seventy miles <sup>so says London.</sup> northeast of Paris, Laon is about halfway between the French border and the city on the Seine. London adds: "The German thrust toward Laon and Marle is being carried out by mechanized and armored columns." The immediate German objective seems to be Soissons on the River Somme. "But," adds London, "it was emphatically denied that they had reached that point." <sup>Paris reports that the German drive has reached "Avin", 20 miles from Rheims, the great cathedral city.</sup> The other Nazi drive toward the Channel ports is compelling an Allied retirement from Belgium. Because it threatens to cut off large British and French forces that were thrown to the

defense of King Leopold's realm. London uses these words:- "The drive towards the Channel ports <sup>has the Allies</sup> forced to give up their lines defending Brussels and retire - to avoid being isolated from their communication and supply lines into France. "

Earlier today Berlin announced that the Germans had captured the fortress of Namur. Then - the historic City of Louvain, before Brussels.

This evening we have the following from Berlin:- "The German high command declared tonight <sup>that</sup> the German troops have marched into Brussels." So it would appear that the Allies have lost at least part of the territory they hold in Belgium, possibly all of it.

Today Winston Churchill called the giant struggle "The battle of the bulge", because of the huge bulge the Nazi armies were battering <sup>into</sup> ~~on~~ the southern end of the Allied line. Now that bulge has become so deep that it has forced the retirement of the Allied forces to the north.

The London Air Ministry reports that the Nazis have lost a thousand warplanes in the past seven days - thirty-one shot

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down today. <sup>London</sup> ~~the~~ claims that the Germans are losing ten aircraft to one lost by the Allies, but London adds that the Germans have such large sky reserves that, in the words used by the British dispatch, "they are, at least for the time being, able to sustain their effort."

The deadly peril to France is reflected in the order of the day, issued by General Gamelin. "Every French unit which is unable to advance," he commands, "must accept death rather than abandon that part of the national territory entrusted to it."

X The French Commander-in-Chief addresses his soldiers in these grave words:- "The fate of the country and that of the Allies and the destiny of the world depends on the battle now taking place." As always in the critical hours of our history, <sup>says Gamelin,</sup> ~~he adds,~~ "the watchword today is - conquer or die."

France tonight is thinking of the watchword of ~~Gallieni~~ Marshal Foch, in World War days. The Foch slogan, "attack, attack, always attack!" The French know that they must strike with every ounce of national strength against the German columns, <sup>plunging</sup> ~~striking~~ so deep <sup>ly</sup> into France. Their best hope would seem to be - a

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counterattack, such as the famous counterattack that won the World War battle of the Marne.

Britain too is aware of the danger, and the London Government is not presenting any rosy picture to the British public. Today, the British press association distributed a dispatch to hundreds of British newspapers, declaring that the press must inform the public of the real state of affairs. A state of affairs which the Press Association dispatch characterizes as follows:-

"The present situation", it says, "must be regarded as one of extreme gravity." It states that the British newspaper <sup>s have</sup> ~~has~~ not represented to the public how serious matters are in France.

"Britons", says the official order, "must prepare themselves to face the facts. It is the duty of the press to prepare the British public to stand up stoutly to the Nazi menace." Such is the journalistic order of the day in London.

The one startling thing tonight is, that the supreme defense that France relied upon to ward off invasion has failed — the Maginot Line.



## TACTICS

The tactics used by the Nazi mechanized army seem ~~am~~ amply to justify that overworked term - "blitzkrieg." Blitz, lightning; krieg, war. Here's a dispatch from London which reads as follows:-

"Military quarters said that swift, heavily armed, tank-led-columns are smashing into Allied defense positions at high speed." The columns," says the London account, <sup>are</sup> under orders to break through the fortifications at any cost and drive into the open country to the rear of the fighting lines."

The British analysis goes on to say that those motorized columns push at maximum speed as far to the rear of the Allied lines as possible. When they can advance no further - "they explode."

How explode? The tank fleet breaks up into small detachments, <sup>that</sup> <sup>kind of exploding -</sup> and these dash in all directions, <sup>(blasting)</sup> ~~telephons~~ roads, railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, for a reign of war terror behind the Allied front.

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London says further:- "The flying columns of tanks, are used by the Germans in the manner of giant projectiles - hurled across the defense lines to detonate with violent force in peaceful regions to the rear." <sup>And that's a</sup> ~~striking~~ striking British picture of the Nazi blitzkrieg.

Paris reports on <sup>the</sup> larger strategic aspect of the stupendous battle. The French say that the lightning swift German stroke through the Maginot Line and into France caught the Allied command at least partly off its guard. Huge British and French forces <sup>had been</sup> ~~were~~ thrown northward into Belgium to keep the Germans from making a sweep down through Belgium as the Kaiser's army did in Nineteen Fourteen. So much was sent <sup>north into</sup> ~~to~~ Belgium that the extension of the Maginot Line to the south was left comparatively weak - and the Germans broke through.

A London dispatch giving the same sort of explanation reads as follows:- "The Allied commanders began to wonder - whether Hitler was really preparing a big blow on the <sup>Belgian</sup> ~~Western~~ Front. <sup>And when</sup> ~~the blow came it was where~~ <sup>it came</sup> ~~why~~ they had not expected it - across Luxembourg and into France. ~~at the Sedan sector in a drive to cut off Belgium from France~~ 'The bulge', which the Germans created ~~between them and France,~~ says London, "became so serious that they had to fall back to avoid being cut off."

Berlin suggests that the tremendous tank drive into France came as a surprise to the French command. The Allies, says Berlin,

were misinformed concerning the disposition and numbers of the

German striking forces. Possibly because of German air superiority, -

And ~~is the~~ Berlin ~~comment~~ says there is word of disharmony between the British and French Command. the French wanting to defend Paris - the One German bulletin tells what sounds like a simply

fantastic story - a French battalion surrendering to a German  
overhead.

war plane. The account relates that a Nazi ~~dx~~ dive bomber flew

over the battalion which had already been bombed to distraction.

The French ~~unit~~ <sup>unit</sup>, about seven hundred and fifty men, signalled

surrender to the sky craft by hoisting a white flag. The bomber,

in return, signalled instructions that the ~~unit~~ battalion should

march in the direction of the German line <sup>S.</sup> ~~on the ground~~. There,

they were made prisoners.

The incredible ultra-modernism  
of the new war.

British wanting to defend the Channel Ports.



ITALY

Italy still remains an element of tightening suspense.

There's a report in Rome that Mussolini is ~~hesitating~~ only waiting to see whether or not Hitler wins a full-sized victory. ~~SSSSSSSS~~

Here's one moody indication of the belief that the Italians are

~~about~~ <sup>about</sup> to plunge into the war. At Cairo the Egyptian Museum has

decided to move ~~to~~ King Tut; The Pharaoh Tutankhanen, the discovery of whose royal and perfect mummy was a scientific romance some years

ago. (King Tut now reposes, sarcophagos and all, in the Cairo museum --

one of the greatest of museum treasures. Egypt fears the coming of war and bombers.-- and that can only mean Italy, ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> nearby Libya.

So the museum treasures ~~have~~ are being taken away to a place of safety, priceless Egyptian antiquities -- including King Tut.

## DEFENSE

The stupendous national defense program was being pushed at high speed in Washington today. The question of how to raise the money receded into the background, when Senator Pat Harrison, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, stated that Congress would put off ~~the~~ and delay the question of financing the new armament plan. Congress will let the money raising part of it wait until the next session - in January.

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The reason is, that the new expenditures for preparedness are not expected to run the national debt above the legal limit - by the time January rolls around. Budget officials point out that it will take time to spend the defense millions recommended by the President. You can't place huge contracts in a hurry. So let it ride ~~xxxxx~~ until the next session.

Senator Harrison said today:- "If we don't reach the debt limit by January, no tax bill will be necessary this session." He declined to say whether he thought the new arms program should be financed by an ~~xx~~ emergency defense tax or by taking the lid off the public debt. That problem goes over until the first of the year.

President Roosevelt today revealed some of the specific <sup>that</sup> plans <sup>^</sup> the government is making. For one thing, the Navy has decided to recommission thirty-five destroyers which date back to the World War. These boats were taken out of service some time ago, and have been lying in the discard. Now they'll be fixed up at a cost of six million dollars, and will rejoin the destroyer squadrons to strengthen the fleet.

But what about aircraft? Sky power is the reigning question of the day. <sup>The</sup> <sup>^</sup> President ~~Roosevelt~~ indicated some of the methods the government plans to employ in providing this nation with fifty thousand war planes. One way will be to finance private aviation factories by the use of R.F.C. funds. Also - the Government is prepared to build airplane factories of its own. These, however - to be operated by private concerns. That's the way the President said he thought it would work - aircraft factories government built and owned - but privately operated.

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Today Assistant Secretary of War, Louis Johnson, issued a summons to forty companies manufacturing air equipment. They're to meet in Washington on Monday and talk over plans for speeding up construction.

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The President ~~Roosevelt~~ made the comment today that one problem will be - skilled mechanics and trained pilots. He predicted that there will be an acute demand for trained mechanical workers to fabricate the vast air fleet. And the Government will have to train thousands upon thousands of new pilots. Nine new camps are to be opened to give air schooling to ten thousand more civilian pilots. This was announced by Chicago Publisher Colonel Frank Knox. He made the statement with the authorization of President Roosevelt. The camps will be operated by civilians, who will teach civilian aviation - thus increasing the reservoir of aviation talent from which the United States air force will be able to draw.

We are told that the new plans call for the army to get twenty-seven hundred new planes - two hundred heavy bombers and twenty-two hundred of the smaller types. These ~~are~~ in addition to three thousand fighting sky craft that the army has now on order. Making - fifty-seven hundred new army sky fighters. The objective for both the army and navy, is an air force of thirty thousand planes by January First, Nineteen Hundred and Forty-Two - a little more than two years from now. Then on to the fifty thousand figure, which the President has named as the ideal strength of the sky

squadron<sup>9</sup> for the United States.

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The new giant air program proposes to change the geographical distribution of airplane factories in this country. Areas near the coast would be the most vulnerable to attack if war should come. So the President disclosed today that he is urging private plane producers to locate all new factories inland, away from the coasts - between the Alleghanies and the Rocky Mountains. Right now, the airplane production in the United States is located almost entirely near the coast lines - concentrated heavily around Los Angeles, some in the northwest and others ~~in the~~ near the eastern seaboard. The scores of new plants, however, are to be placed between the mountains.

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The magnitude and swiftness of these American moves for armed defense are merely a reflection of the stupendous import and lightning rapidity of the events in the European cataclysm.



In the drive for defense, partisanship ~~is~~ is being largely  
called off. The President is having a conference with his  
NineteenThirty-Six rival - Alf Landon. And today Ex-President  
Herbert Hoover, also a <sup>(former)</sup> presidential rival ~~of~~ Franklin Delano  
Roosevelt, issued a call for unanimity ~~and~~ <sup>for</sup> defense. Says <sup>Herbert</sup> ~~Herbert~~  
Hoover:- "The President is right. Our defense armament should

be revised in the light of experience from this war. There can be

no partisanship upon the principle of national defense." Then  
he calls for direction by industrial  
leaders - experts in large scale  
production. We need the greatest  
of these men - he said.

And now Hugh,