

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The historic caravan trails of far off Persia saw strange sights today. Throughout the centuries they have been the highways along which have plodded trains of camels bringing tea and silk from China, rugs from Khiva and Bokhara, spieces from the Indies - returning with the tapestries, carpets and other glories of Persia. Now on those trails where camels still padded along grunting and snarling, today war tanks and armored trucks were rushing. Tonight British and Russian mechanized columns are pouring into Iran, modern Persia, in a five pronged attack. British and Russian troops fighting on the same side, though not exactly side by side, for the first time since the outbreak of the Russian Revolution. Yes, the British and the Soviets have taken a leaf from Hitler's book. They struck without a warning and made a sudden, swift advance to forestall the seizure of Iran by the thousands of German agents who have been filtering into the country. All of this as the culmination of weeks of anxiety and diplomatic negotiation.

Tonight's dispatches indicate that the British at least are somewhat surprised by the stubborn resistance ~~that~~ the Iranian army is putting up. The Shah's government has commandeered every vehicle in his kingdom, every means of transportation. The Red armies crossed the frontier into Iran at two points. One army poured in seventy-five miles northwest of Tabriz, ~~the~~ second most important city in Iran. The Red air force went ahead ~~in~~ of this column and bombarded Tabriz. Another Red column broke into the Shah's <sup>land</sup> ~~territory~~ near the ~~Caspian~~ Caspian Sea.

The British, meanwhile, were striking at three points. One, ~~of them~~ at the head of the Persian Gulf. ~~The other~~ <sup>other</sup> two columns moving in from Iraq. The British are attacking on a front six hundred miles long, all the way from the Persian Gulf to the frontier of Turkey.

This latest phase of today's new war is not without a thread of humor <sup>which</sup> ~~It~~ is revealed unconsciously in the note of the Soviet Government to the Shah. This note discloses that Stalin claims a legal right to send his troops into the Shah's

kingdom by virtue of a secret clause in a treaty between the two countries. And, that secret clause is revealed to the British for the first time in this fashion. Article Six in the treaty provides that in case any third country attempts a passive conquest of the territory of Iran or tries to transform the territory of Iran into a military base for action against Russia,

the Soviet Government will have the right to march troops into

*Obviously that third country was Britain at the time the treaty was made!*  
Iranian territory in self-defense! The Soviet note goes on to

state that such a condition has come about because of the presence of hordes of agents of German <sup>now</sup> ~~Fascism~~ <sup>Nazism</sup>, The note also declares

that a group of German agents has organized armed bands in

frontier districts of Iran, sending them to Baku and other important

Soviet places with the object of causing fires and explosions

on Soviet territory. *So a treaty aimed at Britain as a potential enemy is now invoked in the British interest!*

The note also mentions by name several German agents

*and*  
whom it declares to be spies; says that fifty-six of them have

penetrated into Iranian war industry and institutions.

The Soviet note concludes with a pious assurance

that the invasion is in no way directed against the Iranian people,

and as soon as the danger from Germany is averted, the Soviet Government will withdraw its troops from Iran's territory.

The <sup>word</sup> ~~report~~ from London is that the Iranian army numbers only about a hundred and fifty thousand men.

Ankara reports that the British have from six to seven divisions on the job, about seventy thousand men. ~~They're~~ under the supreme command of Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief in India, former Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East, the man who drove the Italians out of Egypt. The British in the south have the help of considerable naval forces in the Persian Gulf.

In Rome it is reported that the Iranians have an air force of about one hundred planes, ~~but~~ probably not of recent vintage. Berlin claims that Stalin has hurled thirty of his Red divisions against Iran. ~~That doesn't quite jibe with other Nazi claims that Hitler's invading army had practically destroyed the~~  
~~Red forces.~~ <sup>But</sup> There <sup>is</sup> no definite information <sup>as to</sup> ~~at hand~~ about the actual numbers of either the British or Russian armies invading the land of the Shah.

Of course the immediate objectives of both armies are the Persian oil fields. The ultimate objective <sup>two</sup> ~~also~~ is to protect the Russian wells in Soviet territory and the British wells in Iraq. It also comes to light tonight that another object is to protect the Near Eastern road for war supplies to the Soviet armies. That's a fact that has escaped the attention of people who have been saying that there was no way by which either Britain or the United States could send material to Stalin. This invasion ~~of~~ of Persia, if successful, will open up the way through the Persian Gulf, through Persia, and thence into Soviet territory by way of the Caspian ~~Sea~~ and the ~~the~~ Volga, ~~River~~. However, both the British and the Soviets have assured the Iran government that they have no idea of territorial conquest.

In Washington there was no official comment. The Iranian Minister called at the State Department, and had a conference with Under-Secretary Welles.

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And here's a comment from Washington that just came in. It is unofficial but interesting. If the invasion of Iran succeeds,



the guns of our Pacific fleet will protect the delivery of war supplies to Britain and Russia. They will go from the California coast through British Malaya, around India into the Persian Gulf, and across either Iran or the Caspian Sea to southeast Russia. ~~It is~~ a route that would be safely outside the war zones and considerably shorter than the present route which goes by way of the Red Sea and Egypt through the Middle East.

## WAR

Naturally, the Iran adventure for the time being eclipses all excitement over the Russo-German War. The latest we hear from Berlin is a radio broadcast claiming that Hitler's armies have captured five thousand more prisoners, many tanks and large quantities of war material in the battle for the last Russian bridgehead over the River Dnieper. All the other bridgeheads they claim are in German hands.

The Nazis also announce that their armies have virtually mopped up the entire bend of the Dnieper River, captured Dniepropetrovsk and <sup>a</sup>the great power plant, ~~at Zaporozhe~~. The Reds have nothing to say about the campaign in the ~~X~~ Ukraine. But they claim the giant tanks they have thrust into the battle are crushing ~~the~~ Nazis around Leningrad and that Tallinn on the Baltic still is holding out.

A dispatch from Helsinki, capital of Finland, reports that ~~the Finnish armies have taken Kiestinki, up in the Arctic Circle, and that the fall of both Viipuri and Leningrad is only a~~ matter of a few days.

## FRANCE

More sabotage in France! Even the certainty of reprisals with the horrors of Nazi cruelty have been unable to prevent some Frenchmen from showing their hatred of the invaders. Not only the Nazi authorities but the Vichy government promised the utmost severity in dealing with this sort of thing. Nevertheless bolts were removed from a section of railroad track just outside Paris, causing the derailing of a number of cars of a German train. A French train also was wrecked and traffic was blocked for thirty hours. All of which happened after a declaration by Pro-Nazi de Brinon who represents the Vichy government at Paris, when he told a press conference that the French government and the German occupation authorities intend to repress all acts of sabotage -- and do it ruthlessly. And he announced that all the offenses committed so far showed that they had been done by people with technical training. Meanwhile German authorities announce that the French citizen arrested on Saturday will be executed. In spite of this there were more demonstrations in the streets of Paris.

German authorities made a peremptory demand on the Vichy government to set up special courts for dealing with sabotage, courts with power to decree the death penalty. Petain's Minister of Justice promptly hastened to Paris to obey orders.



CHURCHILL

One of the first reactions to <sup>Winston</sup> Churchill's <sup>forceful</sup> radio speech yesterday comes from Senator Taft of Ohio. He hammered heavily at one particular sentence in the Prime Minister's broadcast. That was the sentence which read: "The President of the United States and the British representative ~~has~~ <sup>have</sup> jointly pledged their countries to the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny."

This, declared the Ohio Senator, means that in Mr. Churchill's mind the President has pledged the United States to go to war. Taft then went on to ask who could disarm Germany except the United States? And he asked further, how the United States could do that without going to war. Then he wanted to know what right has the President, without the consent of Congress, to pledge the United States to war. Or, said Taft, is the President fooling Mr. Churchill?

Senator Wheeler, Democratic Leader of the isolationists, branded Churchill's broadcast as designed to frighten the United States into war.

On the other hand, of course there were ~~numerous~~ <sup>many</sup> ~~words at Washington in~~ <sup>today who</sup> praise <sup>d</sup> of the British Prime Minister's

eloquent address; members of Congress who have been supporting the President. In Tokyo there was no official comment. But unofficial spokesmen made light of Churchill's address, and referred to it as just another vain effort to undermine public opinion in Japan. They also denied that Japan had threatened either British or American interests. Commenting on Churchill's remark about the patience of the United States, they said it was Japan that showed the patience - not trying to loot China or bully Indo-China or do anything warlike!

In Berlin, as might be expected, the comment was full of scorn and vituperation. D.N.B., the official news agency, called Churchill a cynical world incendiary, trying to fool the German people with phrases modeled after the Fourteen Points of the unfortunate President Wilson. The best answer to Churchill, said D.N.B., was the recent achievement of Nazi U-boats which had sunk British vessels to the tune of a hundred and forty-eight thousand tons.

A Nazi newspaper described the invasion of Iran as proof of the depth of Churchill's hypocrisy. A Nazi spokesman denied the British charges that thousands of German agents had filtered into

Persia. The total number of Germans in that country, including women and children, said he, was only somewhere between five and seven hundred. The Berlin official spokesman declared the Iran invasion to be "the most unlawful and imperialistic aggression in history." That from Hitler's representative, the Hitler who has ruthlessly invaded and crushed so many nations.

## PICTURES

The newsreel pictures of the Roosevelt-Churchill meeting have just arrived. From England by Clipper today. The motion pictures released in this country right after the event were of the amateur variety. But these new ones are a full dress newsreel version of that historic event. My colleagues at Movietone have just phoned me that these pictures that came today are impressive. I'll be working on them tonight. After telling about some big event on the air, it's fascinating to work on the films of the same thing.

## SHIPYARD

For the second time this summer the military establishment of these United States is in official possession of a defense production plant. This time the Kearny shipyards, in New Jersey. The Navy, under the command of Rear Admiral Harry G. Bowen, is now in charge. Admiral Bowen talked frankly with newspapermen and one of the first questions put to him was about the claim that had been made by the striking union. The union leaders said the government had promised to enforce a closed shop at those shipyards and that's the one point to which the company absolutely refused to yield.

Here is Admiral Bowen's answer:- "the schedule of hours and wages which was in affect at the time work stopped will prevail under the navy's management with such changes as have been agreed upon by union and management."

The Chairman of the Defense Mediation Board issued a plea to labor and management today, a ~~pe~~ plea which evidently held reference to that Kearny situation, though not by name. Chairman Davis declared that the national emergency should not be used as an opportunity for either building up or tearing down a union. On the one hand the union ought not to call a strike for a closed shop



just because it knows we are in an emergency. On the other hand,  
a company ought not refuse a request for union security just  
because it thinks a man won't strike in the face of public opinion.  
So said Chairman Davis of the Defense Mediation Board.

TAXES

Next year there <sup>will</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>more</sup> six million income taxpayers ~~more~~ than ~~there were~~ this year. That was decided by an action of the Finance Committee of the Senate today. They voted to lower the personal exemptions from two thousand to fifteen hundred for married couples; seven hundred and fifty for single persons. <sup>But not by an</sup> ~~it was not an~~ overwhelming vote. <sup>Still, that's just as</sup> ~~ten to six, but at least~~ decisive. <sup>It is</sup> estimated that this will make up for the action of the House in refusing to compel husbands and wives to file joint returns.

The Treasury complained that this refusal would lop three hundred millions off what the income tax would bring in. <sup>Now to be offset by</sup> ~~But~~ the adding of <sup>new</sup> those six million income taxpayers. ~~will offset that.~~

The Senate <sup>and</sup> ~~Committee~~ took into consideration the question of the sales tax. ~~They~~ decided against it. They also decided against the tax to be collected by employers, to be deducted from the salaries or wages of the people they employ.

A hundred and fifty-two years ago, President George Washington appointed the first Attorney General of the United States. His name was Edmund Jennings Randolph. This day President Roosevelt nominated Edmund Randolph's great, great grandson to the same post. His name? Francis Biddle, at present Solicitor-General of the United States. He was a classmate of the President's, both at Groton and at Harvard. At Groton he was the Prep school boxing champion, also captain of the gym team. But neither boxing nor gym work prevented him from being a crack student. At Harvard he took two degrees cum laude.

TUGWELL

Professor Dr. Rexford Guy Tugwell is now officially and legally the Governor of Puerto Rico. The Senate confirmed his nomination today, in spite of the opposition of Senator Taft. Taft objected because, he said, the Professor and ex-brain-truster is intimately allied with one particular political party in Puerto Rico and opposed to the other party. A Governor, he declared, should be above local politics.

The Ohio Senator also made the objection that Tugwell, if not Red, is at least pinkish. "Extremely fond of Russia though he has never completely committed himself to the Communist principles."

But all objections were of no avail. There were not many Senators present when the vote was taken. Nine voted against Tugwell, but eleven were for him -- a majority of two. Now the vote for Blue Sunoco! That's overwhelming. But you tell about it, Hugh.