

L.T. SUNOCO. MONDAY, JUNE 17, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In ~~all~~ the history of radio, there never was such a poignant moment as that which occurred early this morning. First we heard a voice shaking with suppressed emotion as it delivered in French the last word in tragedy for the gallant people of France. It was eighty-four year old Marshal Petain, famous the world over as the hero of Verdun, now the head of France's new government. It took him barely five minutes to convey his message of catastrophe -- surrender, complete capitulation. France can fight no more, he said in tones that could not conceal his sorrow. Then there was a brief pause, and over the air waves came sounds that could not help but find echoes in the heart of every human listener. It was a band playing through in measured, solemn beat, the strains of that immortal hymn composed by Rouget de Lisle, the Marseillaise. Twice the band played it through, and as the final chords died

away, we seemed to have been hearing the swan song of the Third Republic of France. In Bordeauz, even chorused-Nature furnished sounds that made a dramatic obligate to the tragedy. Violent peals of thunder crashed out their accompaniment as the Marshal spoke his fateful proclamation.

Tonight we know that the gallant old Marshal - the Hero of Verdun -- could have done nothering but what he did. As a matter of fact, we over here who have been receiving so much of the recent appalling news, had been wondering for days, even weeks, how long the brave outnumbered and out-equipped French defenders could sta ve off the inevitable.

Tonight we learn that the futility of resisting any longer had become obvious even to the French soldiers. The fall of Verdun yesterday and the outflanking of the Maginot Line simply brought to a staggering climax the succession of disasters so swift that all previous history has no record of the like.

Word comes tonight that the history of seventy years ago may repeat itself. The Franco-Prussian War you will remember was followed by a revolution, which was eventually quelled. There are reports from Bordeaux tonight that the French people are what is called "restive". It is quite within the cards that the Nazis may encourage a Left Wing revolution, a revolution with of course a Nazi complexion. But that is yet in the fute and is apother story.

An official French spokesman reported ^{today} that General Weygand's reserves had become exhausted, not Hitler's. Yes and! the soldiers—such as ~~they~~ ^{were} were left alive, worn out and helpless after days and nights of fighting and retreating ~~at~~ without relief and without sleep.

As a subaltern of the British Expeditionary Force described it, they fought with everything but their teeth and they were under ^{continuous} terrific fire. ~~during every daylight minutes.~~

And History swept ahead all day today with speed ~~such~~ ^{so} breath-taking that it's difficult to keep pace with her. The latest from Bordeaux is that the French are waiting hour by hour for a reply to Petain's request from Adolf Hitler. But so far that answer has not come, and cannot come for hours. Possibly even days. ^{For the word is that} Hitler is going to take counsel with ~~Duce~~ Mussolini before he replies to the French. Mussolini at this moment ^{is} in a train on his way to somewhere in Germany, flanked with a staff of advisors. Among them are his son-in-law and Foreign Minister Count Ciano, the former Fascist Ambassador to London, and Marshal Bagdolio, Chief of Staff. The guessing is that this conference will be held at the Nazi Brown House in Munich,

t8

but nothing has been given out about that. A cable from Madrid reports that Franco of Spain will sit in on the conference.

Meanwhile, though Petain gave the order to cease firing, they are still fighting in France. Hitler's hordes continue their sweep towards the Pyrenees.

Ordinarily, it would have been a sensation to learn that the mighty fortress of Metz was once more in the hands of the German invader. Actually, it came this afternoon almost as an anti-climax.

In Berlin they say all this is in accord with what happened in Nineteen Eighteen. It was on November Fifth that President Wilson reported that the Germans had sued for an armistice. It was not until three days later that the terms were handed to the German delegates at the headquarters of Marshal Foch.

~~on the morning of November Eleventh, Nineteen Eighteen.~~

So the Nazis in continuing their juggernaut drive, are merely

So says Berlin.

repeating history, ~~they say~~ And that so far is the only reply

to ~~Pétain's plea for peace with honor~~

the Nazis

But ~~they~~ add that all French soldiers who surrender

will be spared. It might be supposed that after Petain's order

such French units as are still in the field would give up the

However

battle. ~~But~~ Bordeaux reports that the army of the Loire still

resists tenaciously, although the Nazis have crossed the river

at Orleans.

*Other units too are fighting out the
vain attempt to stem the Blitzkrieg tide.*

TR Naturally, everybody wants to know ^{now} what about Britain?

~~Will the British Lion~~ ^{run up} ~~draw in his~~

~~fangs and wave~~ the white flag? War Minister Winston Churchill

gave the answer this afternoon. It was a loud and unequivocal

"No!" After saying how he grieved for the gallant French people,

the War Premier declared firmly: "What has happened to France

makes no difference to our actions and purpose. We have become,"

he said, "the sole champions-now-in-arms to defend the world-cause

50

and we shall ~~be~~ do our best to be worthy of this high honor.

With the British Empire around us," he added, "we shall fight on unconquerable until the curse of Hitler has been lifted from the brows of men." And he concluded with the confident words:

"We are sure in the end, ^{that} all will be well."

Later this afternoon there was another broadcast from Bordeaux. ~~by~~ ^{was} The Speaker ~~Paul ~~Raymond~~~~ Baudoin, Foreign Minister in the Petain government: - ~~His was~~ an effort to utter some words of consolation for the French people. France, he said, had never shown greater grandeur than in these dark days. She kept her courage, her dignity and her faith, and, he added, "Germany's crushing superiority of men and materials has not crushed the morale of France."

Baudoin also intimated that the French will insist on peace with honor. If the terms which Hitler offers are dishonorable, they will fight on to the end. "France," said her Foreign Minister, "will choose honor in preference to anything else." ~~But~~ But he did not explain what they would fight with, what weapons, what materials. The French reserve of supplies, it is reported, is about as exhausted as ~~her~~ reserves of manpower.

A scene that was witnessed in Paris near the American Embassy tells a graphic story of French exhaustion. A line of French prisoners, dirty and worn, stumbled along, led by a huge German sergeant, six and a half feet tall. As the German shouted "Halt!", the prisoners fell in their tracks, absolutely worn out. Each man took from dirty pockets pieces of dirty bread and started to gnaw at it. They seemed absolutely unconscious of their surroundings, did not care what was going on. One out of ten of those French soldiers was a negro from the colonies. When the German gave the order to fall in, they pulled themselves painfully to their feet and dragged their exhausted bodies off to a prison camp.

Almost the most pitiful fact in the news today is the collapse of the Maginot Line. It was the dream of Andre Maginot, a husky limping giant whose highest rank had been that of sergeant before he became Minister of War. On that line, a sort of Chinese Wall on France's eastern frontier, the best of French engineers spent around five hundred million dollars and ten years of work. It took the Nazis' mechanized army only a few days to

QUESTIONS

No event in our lifetime has raised so many baffling questions as the capitulation of France -- so many questions with such little material for framing answers.

Everybody is asking -- what about the French fleet? It's the fourth largest navy in the world. First of all, where is it?

We may assume that some of it is with the British Fleet. The

British are apprehensive that France might be forced to turn its navy

over to Germany. ^{Just} Suppose that the Petain government were to order

home French naval units with the British? Might not the British take

over such French naval units? If so -- would that no^t constitute a

British act of war against France? If Hitler were to compel the

French government to hand over the French fleet, would the French

fleet yield? Might it not join the British in continuing the fight

against the Nazis? Help the British continue the blockade? But that

might become a blockade of conquered France also. ^{So} Would the French

Navy ~~men~~ help to blockade ^{its} ~~their~~ own country? Or -- might not those ~~men~~

^{of the} French navy ~~men~~ scuttle their fleet, rather than have it fall into the

hands of the Germans? They'd have a German precedent for that -- the

scuttling of the Kaiser's fleet by its own crews.

Questions galore. Will Hitler impose a savage peace on France? in revenge for the ~~stern~~ peace of Versailles? Or will Germany try to tie France to the Nazi system by some kind of Alliance? Napoleon used to do things that way. Will Hitler give Mussolini all the French booty that the Italians want? What do the Italians really expect to get? All they've been demanding -- Nice, Savoy, Corsica, Tunis? Or more?

It's amazing the small amount of real² indicative material that we have for answering such a host of questions. Today we seem to be in a vacuum, with next to nothing on which to form opinions;

opinions -- about that supremely important thing which is about to happen, ^{the} peace that ^{Hitler} Germany will impose upon ^{prostrate La Belle} ~~defeated~~ France.

And here in our own country, in our own politics -- it ^{is}

needless to tell any American how completely our political situation ^{goes sky-rocketing into} ~~is up in~~ the air, because of the war developments. This ^{all just} -- as the

national conventions are about to meet and as a presidential campaign

^{For instance} confronts the nation. Take this one point! -- Everybody knows the

importance of a slogan. And one important slogan over here has been

"Aid for the Allies. But the Allies consisted of Great Britain and

France -- and now France ~~is~~ out of it, calls for peace! Can the term

54

Allies be properly applied to Great Britain and the conquered nations that have not made formal peace -- Poland, Norway, Holland, Belgium? So can the slogan still be used -- "Aid for the Allies"? Or must it be "Aid for Great Britain?" Or "Aid for the British"? Would the change of slogan have any effect? Make it weaker, or ~~perhaps~~ make it stronger?

So many answers are needed, and so few answers are available -- on this day of questions.

ITALY FOLLOW QUESTIONS

And here — maybe! — is an answer to some of those questions. It's a dispatch ^{Just in} from Rome: ~~that came in just an hour ago, and~~ It contains what is described as "authoritative information" about the plans of the dictators, ~~their program for capitulating~~ ~~France?~~ In the first place, the terms will be drawn up and submitted during the next forty-eight hours. ^{TR} Continental France and the French possessions elsewhere ~~will~~ ^{to} be occupied by German and Italian armies. The French Empire ~~will~~ ^{to} be split up among Germany, Italy, Spain and possibly also ^{some of it to} Japan and Belgium.

The report even goes into further details. Hitler will take for himself Alsace and Lorraine, as everybody expected, also a sizeable slice of the French colonies. Mussolini will be given Nice, Savoy, Corsica, Tunisia, French Somaliland, including the Red sea } port of Djibouti and other slices of the French colonies in Africa.

Francisco Franco's share ~~will~~ ^{to} be part of French Morocco and also possibly part of the Basque country which is at present divided between France and Spain.

Japan is to be given French Indo-China, and the French

islands in the Pacific.

There will be a close alliance between Belgium and Nazi Germany, a military and political alliance, and Belgium will be given some of the French ports on the English Channel. Of course that leaves Belgium as a vassal of Nazi Germany.

However, the dictators do not plan to strip France entirely of her colonies. So runs the unofficial report in Rome. The Axis chiefs have always claimed that the condition of Europe today is due to the fact that most of the colonies were divided between only two major powers. Therefore, France will be allowed to keep territory befitting her needs after she ^{herself} has been ~~reduced~~ ~~from the rank of a major power.~~ carved up.

REACTIONS

In our own ^{national} capital, the reactions to the French surrender were quick and spectacular. First of all, President Roosevelt issued an order freezing all French credits, one billion dollars' worth. That applies to bank deposits, gold, securities, every kind of investment, even real estate. That of course was in the line of customary procedure. ~~It will~~ ^{To} prevent the Nazis from cashing in at least on ~~the~~ ^a billion dollars' worth of wealth.

But the next move announced from the White House is a real sensation. President Roosevelt plans to meet the solidarity of the dictators, which means the solidarity of all continental Europe, with a solid bloc of twenty-one American republics. It may even include Canada. The idea is a hard and fast economic union of the Americas, to set up an offensive against the barter trade methods of the European dictators. In every American country, there are vast reserves of supplies - food stuffs and raw materials, wheat and meat, coffee, copper, ^{tin} cotton and ^{nearly all} ~~numerous~~ other commodities.

The dictators are soon going to be faced with an urgent need ^{and} for ~~xxxxxxixxxx~~ everyone of those. ¹ They will try to get them as they've been getting things in the past, by swapping. Against that,

the President proposes to set up a huge cartel, as it is called in Europe, in effect a monopoly. The plan is, that the twenty-one republics and Canada ~~xx~~ shall join this cartel to dispose of their huge surplusses.

Secretary Steve Early explained that, in recent months, the Government has been making an intensive research into all the products of the Americas. The details of the program are being worked out by the Secretary of State, by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Commerce. The effect of such a cartel or combination would be to prevent the dictators from getting what they want by barter and stop them from forcing their system on the Americas.

If this plan does result in an American Zollverein p-- a customs union -- such as Hitler proposes for Europe, it will be a startling departue from precedent.

MESSA GE

Here's the big surprise of the day. A radio message from Britain to France has just been intercepted. It conveyed a new offer for a complete union between the two countries. The citizens of one country to become citizens of the other. A new nation, or commonwealth to consist of Britain and her vast Empire and France and her great Empire.

What will Hitler say to that?

AND SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.