

Answer

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Today's most important event occurred at a point designated as - "somewhere in France." No, not somewhere on the Western Front, for this big news ^{is not about} ~~isn't news of fighting in~~ battle. Rumor places that point "somewhere in France" ^{as} about halfway between Paris and the English Channel. There, in the utmost secrecy gathered chiefs of Britain and France, British Prime Minister Chamberlain and Lord Chatfield, the London Minister of Defense Coordination; And - French Premier Daladier and General Gamelin, Chief of Staff of the Armies of France. Together, these four men constituted the Supreme Allied War Council, — ~~That name is~~ ^{so} reminiscent of the days of NineteenFourteen-Eighteen, when such figures as Lloyd George and Clemenceau, Haig and Foch, ~~constituted~~ ^{formed} the Supreme Council of the Allies in the World War. Today's gathering was the first meeting of the Supreme Council in the present European struggle.

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The questions it considered are not surprising, nor are the decision arrived at. Questions of the under-cover peace propaganda that's emanating from Germany, furtive peace reports said to be spread by Nazi agents, reports that there may soon be an end to the war that's hardly begun, whispers that France or Great Britain might make a separate peace, or that both might settle at the expense of Poland. All this is advance propaganda for the Hitler peace, offensive scheduled to come when Poland has been eliminated, with Mussolini undertaking the part of peace-maker.

The Supreme Allied Council, meeting "somewhere in France" today, came to a decision promptly announced by Paris. "The conference," says a bulletin issued by the French government "completely confirms France and Britain's firm resolution to devote all their power and resources to the conflict imposed upon them." Other reports indicate that the Supreme Council discussed measures for fighting against the Nazi peace propaganda, squelch the rumors, take all possible measures to meet the expected Hitler peace offensive.

And the Supreme War Council touched upon a question that is being asked:- "Why don't they do something big and imposing to help Poland? The Council agreed on what are called "energetic steps" to get badly needed war supplies to the Polish army. All that from Paris.

London reports on today's meeting with this statement:- "France and Britain have now got down to brass tacks, and made it plain for the world to see that they're attacking the job in dead earnest," end quote.

(Today's first session of the Supreme Allied Council is, in general way, an answer to a question larger than any other, a question that has been hinted in the British parliament and is being asked openly and with some air of scandal in British newspapers, a question that must have occurred to many. ("What kind of a war is this, anyway? And who's fighting it? Where is the big time clash between number one military machines?") Where is the wild breaking of the storm on land and in the air that had been so dreaded?" In a certain sense, one might say -- the war hasn't started yet. Of course it would be a poor question

for Americans to ask, "Why don't you fellows start fighting?" We're not in it, it's none of our business. But the whole thing seems puzzling, and causes no little wonder. And the question is being asked all over the world -- particularly in London and Paris.

(There's war in Poland, of course, the clash of fire and steel. But it isn't the Second-World War kind of thing.) Hitler's Polish campaign is more like Ethiopia, Spain, China -- modernized and mechanized forces running over an army that is not equipped to meet it. The way Mussolini's mechanized battalions ran over Haile Selassie's crude regiments, Franco with all the up-to-date equipment crashing through the inferior battle machinery of the Spanish Republicans, Japan's efficient war science achieving victories over China's multitudes, the colonial type of fighting! Hitler's assault in Poland is much the same -- only faster. It is not a clash of modern war machines, one against the other, in Second World War style.

(Today's reports from Poland present a continuation of the perhaps decisive battle that was raging yesterday. Two things are going on. The Germans are driving into the vast loop they created by their mighty pinchers operation.) They are battling to destroy or capture the Polish forces caught in the trap, -- many Polish divisions, the Germans claim. A large part of the Polish armed forces, says Berlin. There is only a narrow bottleneck now through which those Polish forces may escape -- if they can escape at all. (The bottleneck is kept open by the heroic defense of Warsaw, which still repels the enemy.) The Warsaw defenders even pushed the Germans back a bit. It seems like a second Madrid, in proving as Madrid did, how hard it is to capture a great modern city, unless you have it completely surrounded. The Germans fought savagely today, to surround Warsaw. That's a part of the second phase of Warsaw and around the bottleneck of the first huge loop.

This time they seem to be getting at the main defense forces of Poland. The Germans are trying to snare these in their second

loop.

The German high command issued bulletins today telling of successes against heavy resistance, a series of mechanized drives which they claim are making decisive headway in their encircling operation. They say they have Warsaw surrounded.

One important piece of Polish war news is about the weather -- it has now started to rain. Poland, as well as Britain and France, has been depending upon the Polish weather -- the steady downpour that would turn the flat Polish plains into mud flats and bog down the heavy German war machinery on wheels and tractors. The rains to slow the Hitler drive; that was the hope. Until now the Polish weather has been unseasonably fair, dry and hot, the great plains baked by the sun, a hard level surface, perfect ground for the rush of motorized-war-machinery. The Poles have been praying for rain, and it came today. Whereupon hope soared high that there would be a continuing

flood from the sky, ^{ing} swamp Hitler in a bog. [#] German reports admit that it rained, but not enough to slow them down, they say.

They're hoping the showers won't last, that the real rains will hold off, long enough for them to accomplish their swift victory.

This whole business of rain rather reminds one of Ethiopia, where Mussolini's mechanized legions, ~~which~~ could only operate in the dry season, ^{--and} were stopped by the tropical rainy ~~season.~~ ^{S.}

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The Germans report that their army has suffered between twelve and fifteen thousand casualties, [^] killed and wounded, in Poland. Most of these incurred in the last two days, showing that the heaviest fighting is now going on. They officially put their total death list at between fifteen ~~th~~ hundred and two thousand men - this in a twelve day rush which has conquered one-third of Poland. Compare this with the German World War casualty list in the drive against Verdun, which gained a few square miles and is said to have cost a million casualties! It all would certainly indicate that Hitler's Polish campaign is more like Ethiopia, Spain or China than like ~~these~~ a second World War.

(On the Western front, the news is about the same, ^{as yesterday} The French made some slight advances into the German fortified area of the Siegfried Line. The French general staff is not claiming anything much.) ~~It~~ Its report today speaks of ^{winning} driving a small wedge. It speaks of the defenses of the town of Saarbrucken, and says that these were, in its own words - "slightly turned."

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P British newspapers have been indignantly demanding - why hasn't there been a great drive on the Western Front, something like those World War drives? And (Prime Minister Chamberlain is going to face some awkward questions in the House of Commons on that score - "Why isn't there a general attack on the Western Front to make Hitler pull a lot of soldiers out from Poland?") French and British general staffs know the answer, and probably have no idea of a heavy and impetuous rush of massed forces against the German fortifications. They ^{are moving} ~~are surging~~ forward methodically to get set for a scientific kind of attack - something that wouldn't be sheer murder. Moreover, the French right now would have to go it alone. It's only sensible for them to wait for the British to come up, British man-power, and British war machinery.

There ~~are~~ ^{were} wild newspaper stories in London about British troops fighting in the line on the Western Front. The stories were highly dramatic and in copious detail. ~~They~~ ^{But} were sternly, if not angrily, denied today by the London War Office, and there was something of a squabble between the government and the ~~newspapers.~~ ^{press.} ~~The London~~ ^{The} War Office has been keeping the movement of British troops into France a dead secret, ~~as~~ ^{or} the War Office supposed. ^{so. But} The London newspapers not only published that, ~~but~~ ^{they} put British troops ~~not only~~ in France, ~~but also~~ in the fighting line - ~~and it seems axiomatic~~ with warlike heroism.

His Majesty's government thereupon demanded the suppression of all the copies of newspapers carrying the tale, but the newspapers had already been sent out for circulation. "Get 'em back!" commanded the authorities. The whole thing was finally compromised by the War Office admitting that British troops were in France but completely denying they ~~had got to~~ ^{were at} the battlefield - as yet.

The place where the war seems most lacking of all, is in the air. There is savage attack from the sky in Poland, but not in the West. ~~It~~ ^{It} was surmised that the British and French

would send fleets of war planes to Poland, and try to check the German air supremacy there. They can't send soldiers ~~over~~ and ground equipment, but it would be easy to fly planes to Poland. We ~~haven't~~ heard, however, of French and British sky armadas flying to the east to help the hard-pressed Poles. ^{TP} In the west, the crash of sky bombs has been mostly silent. There have been no ferocious air raids in the style of Spain's Barcelona and China's Nanking, the air raids on civilians that had been so greatly dreaded. (Hitler, in his war address, promised he wouldn't air-raid cities and civilians if the Allies didn't do it. And the allied powers promised ~~President Roosevelt~~ they wouldn't bomb cities and civilians if Hitler didn't do it. Both sides seem to have lived up to the agreement, save for the charges the Poles make, in their ^{bitter} war in their own country.) ^{TP} In the west they haven't even been bombing military objectives - ~~save~~ for the ~~one~~ British ~~bombing~~ air raid on German warships at a naval base. Yet the great ~~industrial~~ German industrial plants ^{to} lie near the French frontier within easy striking distance. ~~Some~~ ^{Some} ~~do not~~ ^{suggest} that the munitions makers are sparing each other's

factories. But isn't it enough to think that both sides shrink from beginning the sky warfare which all so greatly fear?

So far the British have struck at the Germans from the sky mostly with leaflets. Today British flyers who dropped those millions of propaganda pamphlets were ridiculing the German defense against aircraft, said it was completely ineffective poor stuff. They had no trouble flying as they pleased over Germany and could easily have dropped bombs instead of pamphlets.

To get back to that question they are asking in London and Paris "What kind of a war is this?" One answer is -- perhaps it hasn't started yet!

WINDSOR

Here's something that would have been a ^{splash} headline

a few weeks ago. The Duke and Duchess of Windsor are back in London. This was officially announced today. They are staying for ~~the~~ present at the country-house of Major Edward Dudley Metcalfe, long ~~the~~ friend and one-~~the~~ ^{time} equerry to the Duke. Later the former Edward the Eighth and the former Wallace Warfield of Baltimore will live in London where the Duke will be given an official position in the War Administration — an ornamental position, London says.

RADIO

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There's one question close to the conscience of every radio news man, the question — how should war news be told? Today the broadcasting companies themselves give the answer. They know the responsibility that bears upon this new system of public information. ~~broadcasting~~ And the responsibility is trebled in ~~these~~ days of war. The big networks have got together and agreed on standards of neutrality in broadcasting. ~~war news~~ "Fairness to all belligerents," is the phrase they use to express the general attitude of American radio. The broadcaster ^{is} ~~was~~ told that insofar as the news permits he should, in the words of the companies themselves, "avoid horror, suspense, and undue excitement."

And that's sound direction -- avoid exaggeration and sensational mongering. Use coolness and don't be juvenile in handling statements and claims, censored news and ~~outright~~ ^{outright} propaganda from abroad. Broadcasts about the European war should be, as the networks declare, "temper^{ate,} ~~ate,~~ responsible and mature." Those are good adjectives for the radio news man to keep in mind. *They've been in mine.*

DIES

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There must be a few anxious people in wealthy circles tonight if the testimony was true before the Dies Committee tday. Rich folks contributing money ^{to} ~~to~~ the Communist party.

Robert Weiner, ~~an~~ a financial official of the American Bolshevik group, testified about cash the Communists got. He told of about twelve or fifteen contributions of more than a thousand dollars each, one as much as three thousand ~~dollars~~. He said these contributions were made by wealthy Americans, doctors, lawyers and businessmen. Some of them, he testified, were members of the Communist party ~~and~~ some were sympathizers.

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Who were they? he was asked. He refused to name them. Members of the Dies Committee insisted. It was decidedly embarrassing. The witness thereupon suggested a complicated scheme. If they would ~~name~~ an impartial person he would give this impartial person the names of the rich contributors to Communism. This impartial person could then go and see them and ask ~~for~~ their permission to make their names public. If they agreed, why then we'd all learn who these ^{monied} ~~money~~ individuals were,

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givers of coin to the Comrades.

I wonder how many of them would allow their names to be published -- Mr. Money-Bags in his sumptuous office

or palatial home making a donation to the cause of the Reds,

and admitting it! Well -- *and s-l-u-t-m.*

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