

L.T. SUNOCO. THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

At three o'clock this afternoon Nazi German troops entered the Norwegian port of Andalsnes. This event closes one brief chapter of the present war in Europe - the attempt of the Allies to oust the Germans from the southern part of Norway.

Shortly before the communique from Berlin, we had one from London. This stated that the Allied forces had completed their withdrawal from the southern areas of the Scandinavian kingdom. It read:- "Allied troops successfully embarked at Andalsnes and other ports in the neighborhood. This," continued the London dispatch, "was done in spite of the enemy's incessant efforts to destroy these ports and communications by air action." Meaning of course, that the Nazi air fleet made sky attacks on the embarking Allied units trying to work havoc as they were engaged in the difficult operation of getting aboard their ships. They failed, apparently for Prime Minister Chamberlain told the House of Commons that the evacuation had been completed without the loss of a single life.

It was the Prime Minister who broke the news today.

Neville Chamberlain faced the hard task of telling the House of Commons that the Allied attempt to dislodge the Germans from southern Norway had failed. He stated that in the face of increasing enemy pressure, the German drive becoming constantly more powerful -- it was necessary for the Allied forces to withdraw from the area south of Trondheim, the port of Andalsnes, southern Norway.

Chamberlain revealed that this decision was made as long as a week ago. These were his words:- "We decided last week that we must abandon any idea of taking Trondheim from the south, and that we must therefore withdraw our troops from that area."

This gives us a clue to the mystifying state of the news for day past -- those Berlin claims of victory, the capture of the strategic railroad town of Dombaas, the establishing of contact with the German forces at Trondheim. Contradictory and confusing reports from nearby Sweden. And from London -- almost nothing at all, communique brief and vague, no denial of the German victory claims, no statement that the Nazi capture of vitally important Dombaas was untrue. For it was all true enough.

Yes, in this news program we could only make the guess that perhaps, in the end, the Allied forces might withdraw from southern Norway. Today at last we know what really was happening, we know it from the lips of the Prime Minister of Great Britain himself; that a week ago, the Allied high command realized the fight in southern Norway was hopeless. And ever since then, day after day, the British and French units have been moving out -- with methodical plan, fighting rear guard actions. Today the withdrawal was complete, the Nazi troops marched into Andalsnes, the port where the Allied forces landed. The Germans claim they have isolated some Allied detachments left behind.

Where are the evacuated units going now? Chamberlain answered that. He said they were being transferred to the northern war areas of Norway -- to join in the Allied campaign there. This as I have mentioned in previous broadcasts was indicated all along -- that the Norwegian war might turn into a simplified conflict of the Allies in the northern part, and the Germans holding the south.

There will still be a major struggle. The Prime Minister today made that promise to the House of Commons. He used these words:-

"We have no intention of allowing Norway to become merely a side show." Chamberlain said to Parliament that he could not give them full details about the campaign that failed.

There's plenty of impatience and criticism in Great Britain charges that the campaign was bungled, that untrained troops with insufficient equipment were sent. Chamberlain announced today that he would make a full statement on Tuesday of next week, to discuss the Norwegian affair in a House of Commons debate. No details today, said he - but he told us enough to give us a general picture of what happened during the past few confusing days.

NORWEGIAN KING

As the Allies today evacuated Andalsnes and the Germans moved in, King Haakon of Norway was not so far away. Here's a late bulletin which tells that he was at the small harbor of Molde, twenty-eight miles from Andalsnes. What is the Norwegian monarch going to do? He has already done it. He escaped just as the Germans were closing in. He went aboard ship -- and it is believed that the royal family and members of the government were with him. The dispatch says:- "They have successfully embarked for an unknown destination." It is thought that the "unknown destination" is somewhere in northern Norway, where the Norse and the Allies are in control. There gallant King Haakon will continue to fight for the independence of his country.

Some more from the rumor factory:- Word is flashed from London -- that King Haakon is in England tonight.

NORWAY

A couple of dispatches from Stockholm are interesting to read in the light of the announcement made by Chamberlain. Here is one message from Stockholm: "Bitter fighting between large Allied and German forces was reported in progress today around Dombaas."

This dispatch came right at the time when Chamberlain was actually telling the Commons about the withdrawal from Andalsnes.

About an our earlier, but at a time when all British troops had been withdrawn south of Trondheim, came another dispatch from Stockholm: "Here it is: (I QUOTE) "Radio Stockholm asserted today that the Allies still hold control of portions of the Dombaas-Stoeran Railroad."

I've read these two dispatches which give news that is obviously untrue, just to show how unreliable throughout has been the rumor factory centered in Stockholm.

CHAMBERLAIN - ITALY

In today's Parliamentary session Prime Minister Chamberlain had a significant word to say pertaining to Italy. He was talking about the Allied fleet -- but in the background was the burly figure of Mussolini. Powerful squadrons of British and French warships have gone to the Mediterranean -- to the eastern port of that inland sea. Chamberlain stated:- "The British and French battle fleet, with cruisers and auxiliary craft, already is in the eastern basin of the Mediterranean, en route to Alexandria."

What's the meaning of this, -- the sea power of the Allies now based on Egypt? It all points to the attitude of Italy, the supposition that Mussolini may be on the verge of joining Hitler in the war. The mighty squadrons at Alexandria are designed to keep an eye on the Duce.

But what about the North Sea and the Nazi navy? The answer points to an interesting turn of events in war affairs upon the ocean. This also stated by Prime Minister Chamberlain. He said that in the Norwegian war thus far, Hitler's fleet has lost so much that it is not so great a menace anymore. The Allies don't have to keep so much sea power watching the German Navy.

Chamberlain put it in these words:- "Injuries to the German fleet," said he, "have been so substantial as to alter the entire balance of naval power, and permit important redistribution of the main Allied fleet."

Redistribution, with an eye on Mussolini.

MUSSOLINI

Second only to the Allied withdrawal from South Norway is a story from Rome -- a turn of events in which Uncle Samuel had a hand. John Whitaker, special correspondent of the NEW YORK EVENING POST, radios his editor from Rome that Mussolini found himself confronted with a threat of a naval blockade, with the United States withdrawing all its commerce from the Mediterranean. This a dramatic climax to the story of the visit paid to Mussolini by American Ambassador Phillips.

Yesterday we learned that Mussolini had informed Phillips he would not make any sudden change in Italy's neutrality toward the war. It now turns out that that wasn't the whole story by any means. The narrative begins with the action of the British Government ordering British merchant vessels to keep out of the Mediterranean. One hour after that announcement President Roosevelt send immediate instructions to Phillips to go to the Venezia Palace and ask for an interview with the Duce. His ostensible purpose, as we heard yesterday, was to ask the Duce was he about to join in with Germany; was he thinking of taking over Jugoslavia? To both of which questions the Duce answered "No".

But together with those questions, Ambassaodor Phillips carried a warning to Italy's Premier. It was a warning in strict conformity with our neutrality as laid down by Congress:- That if conditions grow any worse in the Mediterranean, Washington would be compelled by law to order all American ships to keep away from the Mediterranean.

Ambassador Philips, as Whitaker points out, is an exceedingly suave diplomat, and was able to mention that little matter to Mussolini without the slightest appearance of conveying a threat. Merely reminding the Duce that the Government of the United States was determined to keep out of war entanglements.

Of course if American merchant shipping kept away from the Mediterranean as well as all the British and French mercantile marine, the traffice to Italian seaports would be cut down to a fraction. Mussolini would have to depend almost entirely upon Italian ships. They say that's making Italy less aggressive -- calling Mussolini's bluff.

GREENLAND

Apparently the Nazis are somewhat worried about Uncle Sam's gestures in the direction of Greenland. This is manifested in a dispatch from the German official news agency at Copenhagen. The German agency announces that the Government of Denmark is thinking of sending a commission to the United States to take care of Danish interests in Greenland. This follows on top of the report that the State Department was sending Roland Penfield as American Consul to Godthaab, the principal harbor in Greenland.

The Danish newspapers, like everything and everybody else in Denmark, are under Nazi control, so one of them stated in an editorial:- "The Danish government should immediately say that negotiations are not contemplated with the United States in regard to the sale of Greenland."

JAPAN

News from Asia:- The Japanese anxious to make friends with Uncle Sam. That's what we hear. First of all, there was a get-together meeting between the Mikado's Foreign Minister, Arita, and our High Commissioner to the Philippines, Frances B. Syre. They talked for three-quarters of an hour, not only about the Philippines but discussed the situation in China.

The Japanese official news agency reporting that conference threw out the suggestion that it might be a turning point in the situation that exists between Japan and the United States, the beginning of more friendly relations.

On top of that, the Japanese Prime Minister, Admiral Yonai, announced that Japanis maintaining a policy of not being involved in the European War.

INTRO TO MARTIN LEWIS

A gentleman has just parked himself in a chair at my side. He has a broad smile on his face, so evidently he isn't here to hand me any war bulletin containing tragic news. It looks as though he wanted to speak and his grin suggests that maybe it will be something to cheer us up. His name is Martin Lewis, and he happens to be the Eastern head of that popular and successful magazine MOVIE AND RADIO GUIDE.

What ho, Martin?

FOR MARTIN LEWIS

MARTIN LEWIS:- Lowell, as most of your listeners know, for the past few weeks MOVIE AND RADIO GUIDE MAGAZINES has been conducting its seventh annual poll to determine radio's outstanding personalities and programs. I am very happy to be able to tell your audience that Lowell Thomas was again voted the most popular news commentator on the air -- and by a wide margin. So, congratulations to you, Lowell.

In behalf of the editors of MOVIE AND RADIO GUIDE, and the millions of radio listeners, it gives me great pleasure to present to you this trophy. I hope it will serve constantly to remind you of the many friends who enjoy your excellent news broadcasts.

And before I shove off I'd like to say that I didn't suspect when I came here that anyone would turn on the heat, put me in such a hot spot. I didn't know that I would be sitting with you, Lowell, in front of these television lights and television cameras. And, with my final gasp, because it sure is hot, may I personally congratulate you on being the first news commentator in the history of television. Maybe our magazine will be holding a television poll one of these days. If so, I hope you win that.

L..T:* Many thanks, Martin Lewis. I wish your editor, Curtis Mitchell, were here so we could turn some of this heat on him, just to show him how warmly we appreciate the trophy. And, I am tremendously grateful to the public for voting the way they did in your poll.

LOVE

Love is a funny thing -- that's the opinion of a Justice of the Peace -- Morris N. Hall, of Goose Creek, Texas. He came to that conclusion as a result of his latest experiences in performing marriage ceremonies. For instance he says there was a couple whom he joined in holy wedlock. As soon as he had pronounced the fatal words the groom turned to the bride and said:- "You've got me now, I hope you're satisfied;" then turned on his heel and walked out.

Justice Hall was half way through another ceremony when the lady stopped him. She turned to the groom: "I don't know whether I want to marry you or not," said she. To that the gentleman replied:- "Okey dokey!" Whereupon they walked out side by side. "Consequently," says Justice of the Peace Hall of Goose Creek, Texas, "Love is a funny thing." Or is it Hugh?