

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Today in unoccupied France, American diplomatic officials urged all American citizens to leave. The statement begins:-

"The Consulate desires to impress once more upon American citizens the desirability of returning to the United States." No reason is given officially, but the warning to leave is because of the French food situation -- the grave and increasing shortage of the necessities of life.

There is today another official French warning that France is prepared to take drastic measures to get food through the British blockade. A representative of the Vichy Government repeated the contention that Great Britain had no right to cut off supplies. He referred with approval to a statement in a French newspaper, advocating the use of the French Navy to convoy food ships through

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the blockade. The newspaper said, "If it is necessary to fire cannon, let us use them." To this the official of the Vichy Government added, "The British blockade cannot be tolerated indefinitely." (He revealed that the question has been under discussion with United States Ambassador Leahy, who has been fully informed of the seriousness of the food situation.)

A dispatch from Rome ^{states} ~~declares~~ that British vessels of war have stopped a French merchant ship - the first one to try to reach France since the Vichy Government ~~xxxx~~ has taken a strong stand. The food ship was escorted into Gibraltar, where it is at the present moment.

There was a great popular demonstration at Marseilles today, when a ship steamed into harbor - a freighter flying the American flag. An American official was striding to the dock ^{to meet it} when he was stopped by two little girls in white muslin frocks. One handed him a bouquet of flowers, while the other child put a note in his hand. The message read:- "From the children of France, who are profoundly touched by this generosity of America toward

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France and her children." The man thus accosted was Richard Allen, Director of the American Red Cross in France. The United States freighter just arrived^{ing} in harbor was a Red Cross vessel laden with - "a mercy cargo." Tons of clothing, milk and vitamins for French children - the vitamins to aid in combating conditions of under-nourishment. The Americans had planned a swift, unceremonious job of getting the mercy cargo off the ship as quickly as possible - for fast Red Cross distribution throughout France. The people of Marseilles, however, had other ideas. Seven hundred children were gathered at the dock to hail the arrival of the Red Cross vessel. A huge crowd of people of every sort was there - and they staged an immense ovation.

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The American officials picked out at random a crate of condensed milk and a box of children's clothing, opened them, and showed the contents to the multitude. They say the reception of the mercy ship was the most stirring popular event that France has witnessed since the days when the A.E.F. was arriving, nearly twenty-five years ago.

AIR WAR

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The theme of the war in the air is - moonlight. Tonight Nazi bombers are over Britain, aided by the brilliant light of the moon. Reports thus far indicate widespread air raids. The R.A.F. is hitting back - also helped by moonlight. Today the British flyers staged daytime attacks, smashing at key points along the invasion coast and waging air battles with German fighting planes high above the English Channel.

The new and more violent outbreak of the war in the sky began last night. The reason for it was - visibility, the clear brilliance of night time, with the moon shining so vividly. The R.A.F. took occasion to launch what is described as ^{its}~~the~~ greatest night attack of the war thus far. The bombers flew far into Germany, and the London dispatch emphasizes that among them were new types. What kind? New types of bombers that the British have developed? Or perhaps warplanes of American make? We don't know, we're not told.

Berlin sustained a heavy assault. Well directed bombs - because the moon was so bright. The London dispatch states the following:- "The weather was so clear that British bombing crews were able to pick out streets, railroads and lakes in Berlin."

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And the expression is added, "almost like daytime." The moonlight was so vivid that the R.A.F. pilots could see for fifty miles.

The same at the great harbor of Bremen, where the British planes took aim on an important Nazi war plant. The dispatch issued by the London Air Ministry reads:- "One direct hit in the center of the works was followed by a terrific explosion, and when the flash of this was gone, a fierce fire sprung up."

At Hamburg, a bomb hit the United States Consulate and smashed through the roof of the second floor, where it exploded. There are no reports of any casualties, ~~in the bombing of the Consulate.~~

The theme of the brilliance of the moon is continued in a story of the war of sky and sea. The dispatch reads:- "A Beauford Torpedo Bomber, torpedoed a German destroyer in bright moonlight in the Skagerrak."

Strangest and most spectacular of all is ^{the} a story from Liverpool. For, if the R.A.F. was battering Berlin and Bremen, the Nazi air force was replying in the same way - at Britain's greatest port. There, the moonlight was as vivid as elsewhere, so bright that people of Liverpool were able to see night battles in the sky, and that must have been an eerie sight! A passage from

the Liverpool dispatch reads as follows:- "The night was brilliant with moonlight and residents were thrilled to see a British fighter flash onto the tail of a Nazi bomber, and pour a stream of tracer bullets into the raider - until the aircraft disappeared from view." One witness said the bomber apparently exploded in mid-air.

London and Berlin accounts are in direct conflict concerning the Liverpool raid. The British claim they foiled a huge attack, warded off the Nazi stroke to a large extent - and saved the city from devastation. (Anti-aircraft defense, British fighter planes in night battle, and heroic work by the fire fighting service. Yet there was destruction - and the story tells of havoc and wreckage, raging fires, and a doleful casualty list.) Berlin ^{says} ~~reports~~ that the air assault on Liverpool was successful and did immense damage.

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One report flashing in England is that Nazi parachute troops were landed during the air raid. But this is discounted in military quarters, where they say that the story probably originates in the fact that the German flyers used parachute flares to light their targets, and that in some cases the crews of damaged bombers came to earth the parachute way. ~~Just another example of the way rugers will~~

~~sweep along when nerves are tense in war-time.~~

The way rumors will sweep along is illustrated by an amusing story in a book just out. THEY'LL NEVER QUIT, by Harvey Klemmer, who was an official at the American Embassy in London.

He tells how a rumor of poison gas was started. A quantity of mysterious white powder was found in a roadway. A crowd collected,

and the word spread ^{that} it was a kind of sinister stuff ^{which gave off} ~~that emanated~~

poison gas. Members of the gas squad arrived on the scene. ~~They~~

~~gambled~~ ^{then a} chemical analysis disclosed the truth. It was baby food.

A mother had her youngster in a ~~peram~~, and with the child a sack of baby food. The vigorous infant kicked the sack out of the ~~peram~~;

it fell and broke, the wind blew away the paper bag - and there was the mysterious powder - and the rumor of poison gas!

GREECE

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Reports persist of British troops going to the help of Greece. Today's indication is in the form of ^A a dispatch from Athens which states that an Italian submarine was sunk in the ² Aegean Sea while ¹ attempting an attack on a convoy. The Greeks wouldn't be likely to have any convoy, and so the presumption is that it was British. Meaning -- ³ British military ^{carrying} ~~convoy~~ transporting troops to Greece. This follows yesterday's report that ² ~~the~~ ¹ British army is already in Greece, having been landed during the past few days.

Athens claims that heavy Italian counter-attacks in Albania have been repelled -- counter-attacks in the area where Mussolini is supposed to be.

CRASH

The air crash in Canada today ^{was} ~~is~~ a terrifying phenomenon, as described in reports from Toronto. Two big bombers were flying along in training maneuvers. The two collided in mid-air. Not head-on - they were both flying north. Somehow they came together, ran into each other, one went off into a steep spiral. The other fluttered to the ground like a broken' thing. One exploded as it crashed, and the five men in it were killed instantly. There were four men in the second plane. Two lost their lives, and two were injured. ~~This was~~ ^{it} the third Canadian air accident within twenty-four hours.

AID

There's authoritative word in Washington that ninety-nine ships of the United States Navy are to be turned over to Britain during the coming year. The ships mentioned are seventeen over-aged destroyers, nine over-aged submarines, fifty-five submarine-chasing patrol boats. Also eighteen mosquito torpedo boats the transfer of which has already been approved.

DEFENSE

President Roosevelt today received a recommendation for the establishment of a Labor Board -- a supreme government agency to deal with labor disputes ⁱand defense industries. The recommendation was made jointly by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins and the two Directors of the Office of Production Management, William S. Knudsen and Sidney Hillman. They presented to the president several alternative plans. And the suggestions included an eleven-man board, a seven-man board and a five-man board. The agency would be one of mediation, stepping in to settle defense labor troubles, something after the fashion of the Labor Board of World War Days.

COAL

In the soft coal industry the mine operators of the Appalachian Region today turned down a proposal made by the United Mine Workers. The contract between the owners and the union expires on March Thirty-First, and a new one is to be made. John L. Lewis, President of the Mine Workers, demanded a wage increase of a dollar a day. This the operators rejected, and countered with the suggestion that the two-year contract ^{be} renewed with no change in the wage scale. Today the union responded with an offer to extend the contract as it stands, but only tentatively -- during negotiations and not for the two-year-period. Just hold the contract over temporarily. Now comes word that this has been turned down by the operators. They use the term -- filibuster. They contend that by stringing the contract along the union would be able to filibuster, jockeying for position. ^{They argue that} The mine workers could keep this up until a time when the need for coal would put them in a better position to exact their demands for a dollar a day wage increase.

TEXAS

Which state of the Union has contributed the most volunteers to the Army? You might think - New York, because the Empire State has the largest population. But not at all - New York is third in the number of enlistments. ~~The second largest state, in point of population, is Pennsylvania, and the enlistments there are in proportion. The second largest state is second on the volunteering list. Illinois, third in the number of people, is fourth on the list.~~

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But, ^{the} ~~once again, which~~ state ~~shows up~~ with more enlistments than any other? ~~The answer~~ is - Texas. And the Lone Star State is only the sixth largest in population. Texas of course is the biggest of all in area, but the Army is not recruiting acres and square miles. The total number of enlistments for the whole United States between July First, Nineteen Forty and January First, Nineteen Forty-One, is something more than a hundred and ninety-six thousand. Of these, Texas contributed more than eighteen thousand, ^{seven} ~~seven~~ hundred, ^{nearly} ~~nearly~~ ten per cent; - while the state has ^{only} ~~less than~~ five per cent of the population of the country. *Those Texas plainemen.*

. Another southern state makes a good showing -- Kentucky. The Blue Grass State is way down the line so far as the number of its people is concerned -- in sixteenth place. But Kentucky is in fifth place on the volunteering list. Those Kentucky mountaineers.

All of which would seem to indicate a thing in accordance with long tradition -- that when it comes to joining the Army in a crisis of war, the lads from the South come trooping.

WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie today replied to a story published in Nazi Germany, a yarn which purports to give the reason why Willkie's Grandfather left Germany and immigrated to the United States. The Nazi version claimed that Grandfather Willkie left because his family lost its property - lost it to a Jew named Gerson. The recent Republican Candidate today characterized the yarn in these words, "highly imaginative." He denounced it as an appeal to prejudice against the Jewish people. He says :-- "I never heard of the story, and to me it is incredible."

Willkie told what he knows of his Grandfather's immigration "If the talk I heard at home as a boy is correct," he relates, "my grandfather came to the United States in Eighteen Forty-Eight as a result of the Democratic revolution of that year." He says that Grandfather Willkie returned to Germany for a few years, and then came back to the United States -- for good. Willkie describes his Grandfather's political opinions in these words. -- "a deep and abiding hatred of German autocracy and militarism. A passionate love of liberty, and a warm and sympathetic understanding of the problems of the Jewish people and all minority groups."

POLITICS

At Tenafly, New Jersey, the men want to learn about politics. Learn from whom? Why, the women. A group headed by a college professor, decided that the League of Women Voters was doing a good work in educating the electorate and improving government. So these gentlemen decided to join ^{the League} ~~the League of Women Voters~~, and share in the political wisdom propounded there. They made application for membership, and were turned down. The League of Women Voters responded with considerable logic. Being men, how could they be women voters? It would take some sort of magical transformation.

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However, the ladies said the gentlemen would be allowed to form a male adjunct to the League of Women Voters. They'd be allowed to attend the sessions, and listen to the feminine debates on political issues. But they wouldn't be allowed to vote in League affairs. Think of it, fellows -- ~~being allowed to hear your wife and her mother, or the equivalent, hold forth on the approaching election;~~ ^{permitted}

The gentlemen of Tenafly are now considering the proposal of forming a male adjunct to the League of Women Voters. Male adjunct -- I always thought that was a husband. Well, anyway, he's some kind of junk -- judging from the general attitude of wives. ^{TP} Just think of it fellows -- wanting to hear your wife and her mother, hold forth on the election! I'd rather hear Hugh extol nu-Blue.

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