

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, May 8, 1941.
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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Hugh James and I are broadcasting from Philadelphia tonight, from one of the Halls of Franklin Institute, one of the world's great museums of science and industry. Sitting around me are distinguished men and women who are here tonight to take part in an important event. Right beside me is an immense exhibit that has to do with one of the wonders of the age.

But, before I say more about that here are the highlights of today's news.

Lead

First about those Nazi planes the British shot down last night -- twenty-two. The largest loss inflicted by the R.A.F. in any one night since the war began. The German bombers smashed at Liverpool -- for the seventh consecutive time. They're trying to knock out that great port, which right now is the harbor that receives most of the supplies from across the water. It was bright moonlight, and the R.A.F. fighters in the darkness took full advantage. They swarmed aloft and engaged the Nazi bombers in the light of the moon.

As you may have heard the nocturnal battle of the sky was dramatized by the presence of King George at R.A.F. headquarters, where the monarch of Britain thrilled to the elaborate coordination of the control station which directed the fighting in the night sky. He kept a score card of the German planes shot down, as the news was flashed to headquarters.

The British have been increasingly successful in bringing down raiders at night - though that maximum of twenty-two is nothing to compare with the losses the Germans sustained in the great daylight air battles of last year. Still, the increasing night figure does suggest that the British may be gradually finding a way to beat the

raids in the darkness. London points out cautiously, however, that the larger Nazi losses coincide with the brightness of the moon -- enough light for the night fighters to spot their enemies. So the British content themselves with thinking that they may be developing a way to stop the night raids -- when the moon is bright.

Today there was a spectacular outbreak of daylight air fighting, twelve Nazi planes were brought down, with American built sky craft flashing in the battle on high. The London air ministry tells of more bombing of the Scharnhorst and the Gneisenau, those two much bombed German battleships, Once again the R.A.F. raided them at the Port of Brest, and tell of heavy hits and explosions.

In Iraq, things were relatively quiet today. Reports from Turkey indicate that the Iraqis are running short of munitions. They say that Baghdad is downcast because of the way the British have been smashing up the Iraq air force -- and the R.A.F. has bombed Baghdad, where military advisors of the Axis powers are said to have arrived.

SINKINGS

Today from London came some figures about the sinking of ships during the month of April. They're given as on reliable authority - although the official admiralty report for April is not due until next Tuesday. The figure is - five hundred thousand tons, that much shipping sunk by U-boat, surface raider, and bomb attack. If the report is true, it marks April as the worst month Britain has had to date. The average of sinkings during the war has been something over three hundred and forty-five thousand tons a month.

The London account explains that the April figure is so high because of the war in Greece, the evacuation of British troops, with ships doing the job under heavy bombing attack. For the North Atlantic, the April situation was actually somewhat better, less tonnage sunk than in March.

London takes issue with statements in the United States Senate yesterday, Senator Vandenberg citing a letter from Admiral Land, a letter which minimized the sinking of ships carrying American war cargoes to Britain. According to Admiral Land, only twelve aid-to-Britain vessels were sunk between the First of the year and the beginning of April.

London says the figure is incorrect, and anyway if it were correct -- it would be misleading. The British point out that you've got to consider the whole picture -- the ship destruction in the Mediterranean as well as in the North Atlantic. Heavy losses anywhere would impede the sending of aid to Britian, even though only a few ships actually carrying American armament were sunk. Such vessels are eastbound and more heavily convoyed. The heaviest losses are Westbound, not so heavily convoyed.

Today Rear Admiral Land, chairman of the Maritime Commission, testified before the Senate Commerce Committee, and the report is that he corroborated the figures given by Senator Vandenberg yesterday. He repeated that only twelve ships carrying American war supplies had been sunk. But he added that the total of sinkings everywhere were going on at a rate of five million tons a year. Close to the reported figure which London gives us for April.

KEYNES

Some expert statements about war finances were made today, by one of the world's noted experts on the subject -- Professor John Maynard Keynes. The famous economist who came into prominence with acute criticism of the financial aspects of the peace of Versailles. John Maynard Keynes is of more than average interest to the United States -- because his ideas are regarded as having had a large effect on President Roosevelt. Some say that the writings of the British analyst exerted a great deal of influence on the New Deal.

So what had John Maynard Keynes to say, as he arrived on our shores today? He warned us against inflation. He said that both Great Britain and Germany have avoided that peril, and that we too must be on the lookout against inflation.

Professor Keynes spoke of the British compulsory saving plan and high British taxes as anti-inflationary measures. He told how the British workers are taking the high taxation -- which is deducted from their pay envelopes. "We discovered," he said, "that seventy-five per cent of them said they preferred it. They like the pay-as-you-go theory. They didn't like it at first," he added, "but they got used to it. That is the keynote of Democracy - getting used to it," said the economist of world renown.

JAMES ROOSEVELT

A dispatch from British headquarters at Cairo tells of an arrival there -- James Roosevelt, eldest son of the President. When Jimmy Roosevelt was ordered to the Far East, right after his marriage, there was no explanation of what he would do abroad. Merely -- he was a Marine Corps officer ordered on foreign duty. Since then we've heard of various stops that he has made -- journeying a long way round the world -- Hongkong -- then India, and now - Captain James Roosevelt is in Cairo, accompanied by Major General Thomas of the Marine Corps. What he's to do in the near Eastern war area, is undisclosed. The Marine Corps doesn't publish the reasons for sending officers to one place or another.

WILLKIE.

There was a sharp exchange today between Senator Wheeler, of Montana, and Wendell Willkie. The Senator attacked the Willkie address of last night, in which the former Republican candidate advocated convoys. Wheeler described Willkie in these terms:-

"The leading propagandist for war," He described the Willkie activities as -- "Platform dive bombing". And the Senator from Montana compared Willkie and Lindbergh. He spoke of Willkie's trip abroad in these terms: "His hop, skip and jump tour of Great Britain." He said that Lindbergh had made years of study of military aviation affairs in Europe. The Senator's opinion is that the aviator knows more about the war than the presidential candidate ~~fm~~ of last fall.

To this Willkie made a brief reply, exceedingly brief, one word - "Bunk", said he.

PRIORITIES

The House of Representatives today passed one of the most sweeping bills in American History -- a law relating to priorities. It is designed to establish - mandatory priorities. That is, it would give the government power to ration raw materials, such raw materials as are needed for national defense and aid to Britain, which, of course, includes a huge variety of things - from steel to textiles. Most everything used in manufacture. These to be rationed. The Administration would have the right to tell every kind of business just what it could have, what kind of materials and how much. The sponsors of the bill today described it as a measure to end - "Business as Usual."

There were a couple of hours of debate - pro and con.

Administration leaders said that mandatory priorities were necessary for national defense and aid to Britain. Chairman Vinson of the Naval Affairs Committee, admitted that the bill would give the Government virtual unlimited control over American industry, and that, if administered improperly, it could do great harm to business.

The isolationists attacked it vigorously. Representative Wolcott, of Michigan, argued that under the priorities law a Fascist State could be set up in America.

MANEUVRES

The army today announced its plans for the greatest war maneuvers, not only in American history -- but in anybody's history. One million four hundred thousand men will be engaged in a record-breaking sham battle. Four field armies, four new armored divisions, the air force and parachute troops. Civilians too -- the thousands that are being enlisted in the new aircraft warning network.

Today, Major General Richardson, chief of the Army Bureau of Public Relations, spoke of the monumental maneuvers in these terms:-- "Hardened by months of basic mobilization training," said he, "the troops will participate in simulated battles in which the most advanced techniques of modern warfare will be employed." He said the climax would be around Beauregard, Louisiana, from September First ~~of~~ to September Thirtieth. There five hundred and fifty thousand troops of the Second and Third Armies will clash. Eight hundred thousand others will conduct subordinate operations.

"These maneuvers," says Major General Richardson, "are certainly the largest in our history -- and I believe the largest anywhere at any time," European exercises in peace time, he added, "usually involve between one hundred thousand and two hundred thousand men."

ROOSEVELT

At the White House, the presidential pateint was kept in bed today -- still slightly ill, running a fraction of a degree of fever. Today, like yesterdayk all of ^{the} Rresident's appointments were cancelled -- though he had a talk with British air coordinator Harry Hopkins about the war situation. Also he dictated lette#s -- catching up with his correspondence.

The bulletin issued by the White House physician reads:-

"The patient is improving and is complaining to the White House doctor about being kept inactive."

SUN OIL -- FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Now for the reason that Hugh and I are in Philadelphia this evening, here at Franklin Institute. As I mentioned, this is one of the most important museums in America, with its planetarium, and with its vast halls filled with exhibits showing the strides we Americans have made in science and industry. It is indeed a palace of magic, filled with wonders that hundreds of thousands of people come from far and near to see. Dr. Henry Butler Allen, head of the Institute has been showing me through some of the Halls, and I stood in awe before a printing press from Benjamin Franklin's old printery, and before another on which Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was run off the day after he delivered it. Remember how the oration of the day was made by Wendell Philipps, and how the newspapers all printed that long speech in full the next day, plus a line or two reading: "Abraham Lincoln also made a few remarks!"

But my visit to Franklin Institute tonight has to do with another wonder that hundreds of thousands of other visitors will want to see -- a huge exhibit in front of which I now stand. It shows the catalytic refining process developed by my Sun Oil sponsors, the process that has revolutionized the petroleum industry.

The model is so huge -- and it is in full operation -- that as I stand here in front of it I almost feel that I am in a great oil refinery, such as the one operated by Sun at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, with its capacity of ninety thousand barrels a day, of crude oil; or the one at Toledo, Ohio; or another Sun refinery, at Yale, Oklahoma.

Here with it, also in full operation, is a plant showing the Mercury Process by which Sunoco Motor Oil is made; and replicas of oil derricks, busy drilling just as they do in the field.

This catalytic refining plant is made of transparent glass, so that you can stand here, just as I am, and you can see clearly how it all happens. Here beside me are the giant fractionating towers, where we can follow the crude oil and see how this Blue Sunoco marvel of gasoline chemistry is brought about, how the Sun Oil Company turns out gasoline with such high knockless power -- by its new catalytic process that breaks up the molecules of heavy oil.

In a few minutes the heads of the Sun Oil Company, lead by J. Howard Pew, the President, and accompanied by many other leaders

of the oil industry, including heads of other companies, will go in to the main rotunda of Franklin Institute. And there, at the foot of the imposing statue of Benjamin Franklin that you saw in the newsreels some months ago, the presentation of this immense working model of an oil refinery, will be made by the President of Sun Oil, Mr. Pew.

Come and see it when you are in Philadelphia, and then you will better understand why your Nu Blue gives you that smooth, even performance, that uninterrupted flow of high knockless power that Hugh James is constantly telling us about in his smooth, uninterrupted even tones.

In his opening announcement Hugh said "We are proud of the contribution made by Sun Oil technicians and engineers."

To that may now be added:- the people of Philadelphia will be proud of this intricate and fascinating Sun Oil exhibit, when they come out to Frankon Institute to see it.

PERUVIAN EXPEDITION.

A short wave radio message has just come through from a Peruvian expedition which is engaged in uncovering the ruins of a pre-Inca civilization in one of the most remote parts of the vast South American wilderness. The message has been relayed to me by a Cuban radio amateur, Manual Ganzales, who says that Dr. Fejos, Peruvian scientist, leader of the expedition, radios me as follows:

"Every evening at six forty-five whole expeditions is around radio listening to Lowell Thomas Sunoco news broadcast. Usually included in the audience," continues the message, "are jungle Indian tribesmen of the Yuguas and Uitoto tribes." Dr. Fejos says the Yuguas and Uitoto calle me wawetihu nopora, which he says means "ghost of the evening."

Well, it's now time for wawetihu nopora to say SO LONG UNTIL TOMO**R-R-A.