

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight the Nazi striking force is turned like a

spearhead towards the Channel ports. Their swift armored division

in the vanguard

is rolling towards Peronne, *west and a little north of St. Quentin.* and if they capture ~~it~~, they will be

a bare sixty miles from the Channel ports. Their spearhead of course

is aimed straight at the heart of Britain. *and* There ~~is~~ nothing

surprising about this. They've been saying for days that their

first goal was a foothold on the coast to get themselves air bases

that would be only the briefest flying distance from the great

City of London, that would lay all of southeastern England open to

furious bombardment. *Which is* ~~and that's~~ the wish nearest to Hitler's heart.

It has been the burden of *his* threats and pronouncements ever since

the invasion of Holland and Belgium began. *all of which is* ~~it's~~ typical of Nazi

steely policy, the candor with which they announce their military

objectives.

However, ^{that} ~~the~~ Nazi striking force has not yet reached Peronne, sixty miles from those Channel ports. The division fighting its way in that direction is only a thin wedge. The Nazi drive appears to have halted within the last few hours. The Allies are attacking. That's the big word from all Allied fronts tonight: Attack, attack, **attack**, always attack! It is characteristic of the new Generalissimo of the Allied forces, ^{Maxime Weygand.} He's a true disciple of old Marshal Foch, the modern master of the attack school.

[#] — and other peoples as well —
Frenchmen outside of France today were welcoming the news that Weygand was now in command. He's astonishing, they say; the most brilliant living general.

In obedience to his orders, the Allies north and south began thrusting at the German defense. The strategy of Weygand, from all accounts and from all evidence, is a gigantic pincers movement, to pinch off the German striking force that has pushed forward way ahead of the main body of Hitler's army. French military authorities declare that the Germans have over-extended themselves and that their lines of communication are threatened.

One scene of the fiercest fighting today was at St. Quentin,

and how that brings back memories of the last war! It's an important railroad center in the north of France, and if the Germans were to take it, they would have swift and easy lines of communication back to their main army. ^{— if those lines were not all demolished.} But they haven't got it.

The Germans claimed it, also Cambrai. But later came more exact information. The French still hold both Cambrai and Peronne. Only a motorcycle detachment of the Nazis reached St. Quentin and was quickly chased out. But the German spearhead, aimed at the Channel ports, skirted around the city and left it in the ~~re~~ rear, striking ahead for the Channel.

There's a good deal of significance in the fact that the Germans have made no attempt at an aerial bombardment of Paris. From a distance of only sixty miles, they ^{are} ~~are~~ in a position to pour their most ~~de~~ deadly destruction on the French capital. But hitherto they've refrained. Of course there is a politic move in that. The Nazis, as we have observed, claim the British for their principal enemies and do all in their power to detach the French, ~~in an effort~~ to persuade the defenders of France that they ought to desert their Allies.

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Nazi propaganda leaves no words unused to denigrate the British. Their loudest claims today from Belgium, for instance, were that the British were fleeing and that the German advance guard could find hardly any trace of them in Belgium. The British are, as a matter of fact, withdrawing steadily from Belgium but

apparently they [^] have done so without *heavy* [^] loss. There was an indication today

that the French and British might have to leave Belgium altogether

and take their stand at Dunkirk on French soil, near the Belgian border.

big part of the Nazi thrust to Peronne is an attempt to cut off the French and British forces in Belgium.

The night scene over France and Belgium tonight is

pictured for us as one huge inferno. Flames of burning oil

supplies and ammunition depots reach to the skies behind both

armies. British and French air bombers flew over the German

lines, destroying supplies, and the Nazis retaliated. For three

nights bombers of the Royal Air Force have been blasting at the

German lines and oil depots in Belgium. The paths of the armies

at night are outlined in terrible fashion by huge *tongues* [^] ~~tons~~ [^] of flame.

Here's a latter communique from Berlin. It reports,

what is described as official~~ly~~ that the Nazis declare the

Swastika flag flies over the French City of Laon. Laon is just seventy-five miles from Paris, thirty-two miles from Rheims.

~~HE IS~~ On the southern flank of the German bulge.

One American correspondent saw part of the German advance with his own eyes. He saw it from the French side. He went as far in the direction of the approaching German columns as he could, with the noise of the battle growing louder and louder. The only way he could ^{determine what was going on was} ~~see the operations, he wires, is~~ by watching the masses of Allied and German planes overhead. They cluster above the raging battle and dive and zoom over the approaching columns. ~~He~~ learned from some of the Allied aviators that every road through the Ardenne and down to the valleys of the ^{Meuse} Meuse and Sombre is filled with uninterrupted columns of German tanks and armored cars. They roll steadily forward at a speed of thirty miles an hour when there is no interference. From time to time Allied bombers made crash dives out of the sky, tearing huge holes in the roads and bridges ahead of the Nazi tanks. The bombs might wipe out some four or five enemy tanks apiece. But the other tanks and armored cars behind them merely detour around the obstacle.

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The greatest impediment to the German advance just now is the big French Seventy-Fives, that ^{played such a vital role in} ~~we heard so much about in~~ the last war. ~~But although they slow down the German advance, they haven't stopped it, that is, not until today.~~

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The correspondent talked to the crews of some of the Allied tanks, as they returned steaming hot from the battlefield to take on fuel and munitions. He says it's a question which is the hardest on the fighters, the tanks or the fast planes with ^{themselves} their crash dives. In the tanks the gunner sits up in a turret with radio ear phones through which he receives his orders from his officers. The man in the turret directs the driver by nudging him with his boots, since it's impossible to be heard above the din of the battle and the noise of the tank.

After a few hours of that din and the heat boiling up inside the tanks, the drivers are completely fagged out. But some of those on the British and French side have been fighting from sunrise to sundown.

In addition to capturing Laon, the German high command say that the Nazi advance guard has penetrated southwest from that

town as far as the canal between the Rivers Oise and the Aisne. ^{was}

Meanwhile, however, the attack ordered by General Weygand has begun. [#] What is going on ~~in~~ over there now will probably turn out to be the most ferocious fighting that has yet been seen since the Nazi attack started. Along both flanks of the German bulge, French and British armored divisions are slicing in. A report from a semi-official radio agency in Paris has it that advance ^{— both British and French —} guards on both sides _^ are actually operating behind the enemy lines. Allied troops withdrawn from Belgium have joined in counter-attacks against the Germans north of St. Quentin.

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INDIES

When the Nazis invaded the Netherlands, ^{as we have heard} all the Dutch colonial authorities took swift action. To protect the Dutch possessions in the East and West Indies, all Germans were promptly slapped into concentration camps. ^{Now the Hitler} ~~The Nazi Government~~ is trying to force their release. The members of the Dutch Legation and ^{also} the Belgian Embassy in Berlin are being held in custody in a small German town. And the Nazis declare they won't release them until not only the consular officials in the Dutch colonies are set free, but also all the Germans who have been interned. ^{Which} ~~That~~ makes an awkward problem. The ^{Dutch} colonial officials would be willing to release the consuls, provided they leave immediately. But there are several hundred Germans in all those colonies who, ^{if released} ~~are capable of~~ ~~might organize an east and west~~ ~~becoming a fifth column menace.~~

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Indian Fifth Column.

CHINA

Peace in China! That's the latest rumor from Shanghai.

The way the rumor comes makes it sound as though there were some foundation for it. It is a fact that Japanese officials had been talking with Chinese representatives of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek at Hong Kong. In diplomatic language, these talks are not acknowledged as negotiations, just conversations strictly preliminary.

The most spectacular part of the rumor is that the Chinese report the terms offered by Japan as being acceptable. For instance, the Japanese are supposed to be willing to withdraw from all of central China and south China. But they ~~want~~ want to hold on to their conquest in the north and maintain garrisons along two of the most important railroads leading out of Peiping. North China would be converted into a puppet state, with the government headed by a man who would nominally take orders from Chiang Kai-shek but whom the Japanese would select as a Chinese friendly to Japan. On the other hand, the Chinese don't so much care for the exacting ~~is~~ demands for what they call "economic cooperation" in South and Central China. Translated into plain

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English, it would mean that the Nipponese would have it their own way in exploiting the country for their own benefit.

flatly

All these rumors are denied at Chiang Kai-shek's

headquarters. There have been no peace talks at Hong Kong, So

they say in remote Chungking.

~~that's the version on the other side~~

Observers point

out that peace in China would free the Japanese for other threatening activities in the Pacific.

DEFENSE

A story of big money comes from Washington, money in a sum that would take our breath away if we hadn't become somewhat used to huge figures in the last few years. One billion, eight hundred and twenty millions, nine hundred and forty-one thousand, and four dollars for Uncle Sam's army. ~~That's for the~~

(Wonder why the 4 dollars?) All that

for the
^

army alone, and that's what the Appropriations Committee urges the

set aside
^

Senators ~~to award to the ~~generals~~ generals~~ for Uncle Sam's

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defenses on land and in the air. ~~#~~ The new defense bill would

place at the immediate disposal of the army one billion, four

hundred and ninety-seven million odd dollars in cash, cash for

two hundred super-bombers, for twenty-two hundred small planes,

for anti-aircraft, anti-tank guns and ammunition. ~~TP~~ Aside from

~~that~~ that sum in cash, the bill carries authorizations for

three hundred and twenty-three millions extra, with a blank check

for a hundred and thirty-two millions to be used at the discretion

of the President. And the President is not expected to report to

Congress what has been done with that money before June Thirtieth,

Nineteen Forty-Two.

While this was being done by a Senate Committee,

General Marshall, Chief-of-Staff of the Army, was talking to the Military Affairs Committee of the House. Marshall wants Congress to extend the limit ~~sixteen~~ ^{of the number} of planes allowed to the Army. At present the limit is six thousand. The Army wants Congress to allow them ~~to have~~ ten thousand.

^{Henry}
Major General Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Corps,

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had something to say about President Roosevelt's suggestion that Uncle Sam should have no fewer than fifty thousand planes. That is, fifty thousand for both army and navy. Arnold told the Military Affairs Committee of the House that this would cost no less than seven billion dollars. It would take three and a half billions to train and equip the ground crews alone, and three and a half billions for the planes, ^{at a cost} ~~that would be at a cost~~ of some seventy thousand dollars each.

^{One}
~~Some~~ hundred representatives of the American aviation industry met with officials of the National Defense in Washington today. It was a session of enthusiasm to begin with; the airship manufacturers promised the utmost cooperation with the Government. But when it was over, considerable grumblings were

heard. They came from the manufacturers ^{who} ~~They~~ are anxious to
cooperate, ^{but} they said, ~~but~~ the government has no concrete plans
to help them ^{get ahead with} ~~xxxxx in building~~ those fifty thousand planes that
Mr. Roosevelt would like us to have.

ALASKA

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The business of providing defense for Alaska came up before the Congressmen today. The army chiefs have already been promised that they will have twelve million ^{dollars} to spend on an air base at Anchorage, ^{Alaska,} and they're going to work on it right away. So said the Chief-of-Staff, General George Marshall, to a Senate Committee. The staff doesn't feel alarmed about Alaska, but General Marshall said the building of an air base there is a matter of ordinary sensible precaution.

The staff also plans to organize a National Guard in Alaska, with units at Seward, Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan and Nome, and a unit of the Officers Training Corps at the University of Alaska.

Soviet Russia, incidentally, is already building fortified air bases and submarine bases on the extreme tip of Siberia, opposite Alaska.

JEHOVAH Follow Supreme Court

Another ruling by the Supreme Court today will probably be quoted on many future occasions. A couple of *self-* *styled* Jehovah's witnesses went around ^{← Roman} ~~Catholic neighborhood in~~ New Haven, Connecticut, selling pamphlets and playing a phonograph. ~~The record they played was an attack on the Roman Catholic Church.~~

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While the Supreme Court was hearing the appeal Chief Justice Hughes put the question in open court: "Is there no limit to what you can do because you think you are worshipping God?" After ~~tax~~ that people expected a decision against those Jehovah's witnesses. But the court decided unanimously in their favor. The gist of the ruling was that those witnesses were exercising their religious liberties and that those liberties are essential even though they may be sometimes abused. — in *8 1/2* other words that this is a free country.

ANIMALS

The tenants living in a Kansas City apartment house made a complaint to the police. ^{These tenants} ~~They~~ were on the warpath because the apartment house in which they lived also sheltered four Shetland ponies, one goat, one family of cats, one monkey, ~~two lions,~~ and a two year old lion. This, they said, was too much. So the police paid a visit to that apartment house. They found the animals there, all right. In fact, the owner showed them off with great pride, including the two year old lion. But, she said, the animals are going to stay there because the apartment house belongs to her. And she explained that the tenants don't have to stay if they don't want to. ^(all of which) ~~That answered~~ stumped the cops.

And now Hugh!

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