

L.J. - Sunoco Friday, May 10, 1940.

WAR

Good Evening Everybody:—

The most startling thing in the startling war picture tonight is the surprise tactics of the air employed in the newest German blitzkrieg. In the Norwegian blow, the Nazis landed troops by transport planes, and dropped detachments by ~~the~~ the parachute route. But today these operations were more intensive, much greater in scope, and were an amazing part in the surprise attack.

The case of Rotterdam was typical. The city is on the opposite side of Holland from Germany, separated from Naziland by a hundred miles of country. Some of it flooded country - the Dutch opening the dikes, ~~and~~ letting the sea in - their old historic way of defense. But what good was the dike and flood strategy against tactics like this? ~~#~~ Early this morning, great Nazi flying boats landed on the broad river of Rotterdam. They were crammed with soldiers. Swiftly, a landing was made, and part of Rotterdam was in Nazi German hands - in an attack of utter surprise. At the same time, Hitler bombers roared over the Rotterdam airport, and blasted it with bombs, turning the place into a wreck.

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Then Nazi parachute troops floated down from the sky. They landed on the airport, and ^{dug in.} ~~captured it.~~ At last reports fierce battling was going on at the historic Dutch city, with Holland regiments fightly fiercing to keep the invader out of the eastern part of the city. German attacks repelled, is the latest.

Surprise air ~~x~~ tactics of that sort occurred in a score of places in Holland, in Belgium, and in some ^{areas} ~~places~~ were aided apparently by Nazi warship operations along the coast.

Berlin reports strategic flying fields captured, in one section and another. The seizure of The Hague was announced, its airport occupied. But ~~later~~ ^{now} word indicates that the invaders ^{may have} ~~later had~~ been dislodged at Holland's capital. Capture the airports! -- That's the Nazi slogan, just as it was in Norway.

One point ^{is} that the Hitler forces, invading from the sky, are small parties. Many of them are being wiped out by the defenders. But the fact remains that ⁱⁿ many places German troops are operating behind the lines of Dutch and Belgian defense.

Something new in warfare.

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In the attack on the ground, Berlin claims to have captured the Dutch fortress at Maastricht and ^{to} have seized bridgeheads along the Albert Canal in that area. This would indicate an advance of about twenty miles. Berlin announces the capture of the Belgian city of Malmedy, a push of about fifteen miles. They've still got the main line of defense to attack, and the latest is, the Belgian command reports that the attack of the German invading forces has been repelled.

Meanwhile, ^{aid} ~~it~~ is rushing swiftly. The British Expeditionary Force, stationed for so long in northern France, hurled its mechanized units into Belgium today. And tonight's reports tell of British divisions streaming along Belgian roads with a speed of motorized advance. Cheered enthusiastically by the Belgians, who are ~~warren~~ heartened by the sight of endless lines of ^{British} mechanized equipment rolling northward in support of the Belgian army.

The way war has been speeded up nowadays, it can't be more than hours before the British war machine clashes with the

German near the frontiers of Belgium. They may be fighting now.

The French and Germans are battling fiercely on the border of Luxembourg!
Goering's air force, supported the ground attack

with the usual tactics of hitting at communications behind the

Allied lines. A dozen French cities were bombed today, with the

attack concentrated ^{ed} on the airfields. The German bombers flew

far and wide, blasting at strategic points in France, Belgium

and Holland. They were met by the Allied sky power, and titanic

battles ~~xx~~ of the air were fought - great formations of planes

clashing in combat. The Allies ^{claim to have shot} ~~shooting~~ down eighty German planes.

Berlin denies this, gives its lossess as only a dozen or so,

and claims to have destroyed a hundred Allied planes - either

shooting them down or bombing them on the ground in airport attacks.

~~It's~~ War in the air on a grand scale, pitched battles

on high, air power employed in new ways of ^{combat,} ~~war~~ and in the older

ways too - and ~~all~~ on a greater scale than ever before.

BOMBING

Today marks the first time that Nazi Germany has struck at the Allies with air bombs aimed at land objectives. Hitherto the air-raiding on both sides has been restricted to naval and air bases. No striking at land centers of communications, factories, munitions plants. Not until today -- with ~~the~~ Nazi bombers ^{ranging} ~~aiming~~ far and wide.

This brought quick warning from both London and Paris.

The British government referred to the pledge it made to President Roosevelt -- not to bomb civilian populations, and then added a reservation that if the Germans start bombing civilians, why then the British air force will retaliate. (Paris said the same thing. ~~EX~~ If the Nazi air raids are not confined to military objectives, ^{the} French will hit back with indiscriminating bombing.)

That raised the question squarely ^{--- were} ~~the~~ ^{we} Nazi bombing attacks today confined ~~to~~ strictly to targets of military importance? Or were ^{there} ~~their~~ air raids against open towns and civilians? Here's a late Paris bulletin, with the spokesmen for the French Foreign Office declaring that the Germans ^{did} ~~would~~ strike non-military objectives today. Does that mean that France will immediately

retort in kind? That isn't clear. But one thing is clear, the long dreaded day of indiscriminate bombing and the terrorizing of cities ^{draws} ~~may be much~~ nearer. ~~at hand.~~

Today, for the first time in the present war, -- bombs hit England. Near the little town of Chilam incendiary bombs fell and exploded -- doing some damage. The scene is in Kent, near ~~historic~~ Canterbury -- one of England's historic places. ~~XXX~~ There were loud explosions, leaping of flames, as bombs ^{blasted} ~~plazes~~ -- ^{near} Canterbury.

^{at} ~~and~~ London emergency orders were issued today -- get ready to evacuate the children. When the war broke out two hundred and ^{thousand} fifty youngsters were taken from London and placed in the country -- away from the peril of bombs. But since then the children have been filtering back to their homes and parents. It's estimated there are now almost half a million in London, and to evacuate them will take six days of intensive labor. ^{It} In a multitude of ways Britain is guarding against the Blitz-krieg that may sweep to England. Then London War Office today took measures against possible fifth column tactics by Nazi Germany -- secret agent strokes against vital

centers. ~~but~~ ^{today} It was announced ~~today~~ that military guards have been stationed at all vulnerable points in the British Isles. And the sentries have orders to shoot anyone who approaches and fails to answer the military challenge. Anybody going near one of those vulnerable points is required to answer the challenge. ~~with one word. By shouting "friend."~~ And must remain standing until the sentry acknowledges the reply. Otherwise the military guard will shoot. This ~~shooting~~ order is so deadly serious that the War office has issued warning to persons who are deaf ^{and} ~~such as~~ might not be able to hear the sentry's challenge. They're told to stay away from all places considered vulnerable

Britain is moving to guard against actual invasion.

Tonight the homeoffice issued a warning in these words: "Everybody should be on the lookout for German troops landing by parachute."

~~The announcement was made at the~~ ^{at} strategic points throughout the British Isles. ~~and~~ detachments of special troops have been stationed to fight parachute soldiers, if they should land from the sky.

These precautions are only too pointedly suggested by the startling tactics of air invasion which the German forces are employing in the low countries.

CHAMBERLAIN

This evening the Cabinet of Great Britain met at Number Ten Downing Street, the storied^d home of British Prime Ministers. They gathered in the Cabinet room where the chiefs of British government customarily assemble to make decisions.

Facing his colleagues, Prime Minister Chamberlain announced his resignation. We may surmise that it was a scene intense with the deep currents of emotion. Seventy-one year old Neville Chamberlain, the very personification of quiet British propriety, and unspectacular rectitude. The conservative Prime Minister who not so long ago had the biggest parliamentary majority in British history. The man who strove so hard for peace, and had to be a war Prime Minister.

Now his tenure of office had come to lamentable failure; Chamberlain saddled with the blame for the ^{disaster}~~failure~~ in Norway, denounced with more vehement bitterness than any other British Prime Minister has had to endure. Politically ~~ruined~~ ruined two days ago by parliamentary hostility and so slender a vote of confidence that it spelled defeat. Today, the newest stroke of Nazi terror unleashed, the latest blitzkrieg hurled with

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lightning violence at the low countries, and menacing Britain
itself. In such tragic circumstance did Neville Chamberlain
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ announce his resignation.

It's no wonder that after the Cabinet meeting there
at Number Ten Downing Street, the government Ministers ~~is~~ told about
it in tones of strained emotion. So deeply touched - their voices
broke.

No wonder either that Neville Chamberlain's own voice
was faint and shaking when he spoke on the air and announced his
resignation to the British Empire and the world. At times one
thought he might be on the verge of breaking down, as when he said:-
"I'm not going to make any comment on the debate in the House of
Commons. When it was over I had no doubt in my mind that some new
drastic steps had to be taken if confidence was to be restored."

And
So he resigned, making way for Winston Churchill, the new Prime

Minister of Great Britain. — *the man of which it
had so often been said that he would
never be Prime Minister.*
His voice rose to fires of indignation when he spoke

of the event of today - that event of terror. "Early this morning,"

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Chamberlain,
he said "without excuse or warning - Hitler added another
~~xxxxx~~ to the horrible crimes which disgrace his name." And
he excoriated the Nazi Fuehrer in these words:- "A wild beast
who has sprung out of his lair." And he related the new Hitler
E blitzkrieg to his own political drama - Chamberlain's own
downfall as Prime Minister. "He has chosen a moment when perhaps
it seems to him that this country is in the throes of a political
crisis," he said. And ^{he}~~then~~ added:- "If Hitler has counted on our
_{1 1} internal division ~~xxxxx~~ to help him, he has miscalculated the
mind of this people."

As for the new ministry, the retiring Prime Minister
will become apparently a member of the Cabinet. He stated that
he would accept a Cabinet post - willing to serve under Winston
Churchill. Other members undoubtedly will be Labor Party leader
Clement Attlee and Liberal Leader Sinclair. There ^{is}~~is~~ an insistent
₁ London rumor too that Lloyd George will be given a post in the
new government - as Minister without portfolio.

So now Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Great Britain - the brilliant Churchill of whom it was said that he held every political post, save the top. And indeed for many years it seemed that Churchill was destined never to realize his highest ambition. ^{Ordinarily his} ~~His~~ elevation ^{would} ~~today might~~ have rung out the theme - triumph at last! But Winston Churchill will feel little inclined to gloat over the new turn of high destiny for him. Historical-minded as he is, he will receive the crown of his life's ambition with grave and solemn reflection, leading his country in an hour that Neville Chamberlain described today in these words:- "Our hour has come. We are put to the test - *ae* ~~as is~~ ^{have} the unfortunate peoples of Holland and Belgium."

UNITED STATES

President Roosevelt's press conference today was held in an atmosphere of grave preoccupation. The President gave his opinion of the new blitzkrieg, gave it with a reference to Queen Wilhelmina of Holland. "I think I can say personally," said he, "that I am in full sympathy with the very excellent statement that was given out^e - the proclamation by the Queen of the Netherlands. Let it go at that. It is worth reading," *said the President.*

So let's repeat what Queen Wilhelmina stated, ^{her} protest to the world: "I herewith direct a ~~fix~~ flaming protest," said she, "against this violation of good faith and violation of all that is decent in relations between cultured states."

The President was asked about the probability of the United States staying out of the war. He replied by referring to his statement made last fall when the war began. He said his attitude remained unchanged. At that time, the President declared his position as follows:- "I hope (the United States will keep out of this war.) I believe it will. And I give you assurances that every effort of your government will be directed toward that end." *So he*

said in the autumn.

Today the President indicated that he has not yet ready to make a formal declaration that a state of war exists between Germany and Belgium and Holland. Such a proclamation would put our neutrality laws into effect with reference to the two small nations.

people of this country
The President will talk to the ~~nation~~ tonight about today's events in Europe. He will be on the radio at ten thirty this evening. This has one effect in a realm far removed from world events -- it affects prizefight affairs. Ten thirty P.M. was to have been the hour for putting on the air the lightweight championship fight between Lou Ambers and Lew Jenkins. But now that has been advanced an hour, the fight and broadcast to be staged at nine thirty P.M., Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

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There was quick government action with reference to Dutch and Belgium credits and investments in the United States. These amount to a billion, a hundred and seventy-two million dollars. If the United States Government permitted them to be liquidated, the German invaders might be able to cash in on them So the credits and investments are tied up - frozen.

seems to be

There ~~is~~ no truth in the rumor that the United States

fleet is going to the Philippines. The moment the news of the new blitzkrieg came, the rumor started circulating: ~~The~~ U.S. fleet, now in Hawaii, ordered to steam to Manila. Admiral Stark, Chief of Naval Operations, was asked about that and he replied with these words:- "Manufactured out of thin air." And he added this statement:- "There is no change in the plans for the fleet."

The talk about the United States Navy in the Pacific points of course to the Dutch East Indies. It has long been wondered -- What would happen to the great Holland Empire to the south of Asia, were Nazi Germany to invade the Netherlands? One suspicion has been - that Japan might make a try at those immensely rich islands like Java, Sumatra, and Dutch Borneo. ~~Today brings~~

Clash of war echoing
~~the question into the forefront - What about the Dutch East Indies?~~
around the world. And now Hugh

From the Far East comes a dispatch telling of quick action by the Dutch authorities. Batavia, capital of Java, reports the Dutch East Indies government today proclaimed a state of siege and ordered all Germans living in the islands to be interned. The

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