

L.I. - Sumner. Thursday, May 23, 1940.

WAR

46
In the Battle of Flanders, there are three critical^{al} areas tonight, three sides of the trapped Allied army - south side, east side, and west side.

If the huge encircled forces of Great Britain, Belgium and France are to be saved, that salvation will have to come at the southern curve of the ~~huge German~~ pocket the Germans have closed. Today Allied troops battled fiercely to drive their way south, through the encircling ~~German~~ ^{Nazi} line ^(of steel and fire) - and join with the main French forces on the south side of the pocket.

The day began with the announcement of the French^{re} capture of Arras, which is ~~on the northern edge of the German edge wedge,~~ ^{side} London, however, warned that this success should not be exaggerated. A spokesman for the War Office declared a counter-attack such as was made in the Arras-Douai section is only a small part of the whole picture." And he added: "We have no reports that a really big counter-offensive has begun. The situation is very grave," observed the spokesman. And that was the ~~keynote~~ keynote in London today - the gravity of the situation in northern France.

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Later in the day, came a French military dispatch

declaring that the Allies had hurled the Germans back, ~~as they~~
~~fought to break their way out of the southern end of the pocket.~~
Paris described the hugeness and fierceness of the battle in the
area from Arras to Cambrai. The Allies are battling with cannon,
tremendous artillery fire. Shells from guns of all calibre are
raking every road along which the Germans may advance - shrapnel,
high explosive. Paris reports that the Germans are using every
kind of weapon that they have. Flame-throwing tanks operated
by crews in asbestos uniforms. These tanks are described as
fast and light, and they mount a flame-thrower which projects
like a long gun barrel. They dash up to an objective with a
long flame ^{spraying} ~~spreading~~ ahead in front of them. The Paris report
tells how these flame-throwing tanks are used against
fortifications. They dash up close to a fort and ^{spray} ~~spread~~ flame
into the gun apertures. Just like a fireman playing a stream
of water through the window of a burning building, but in the
Battle of Flanders the Nazis play streams of flame in the
inferno of war.

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One French military expert tells of the ^{Allied} ~~problem~~ of the

against the light, swift armored units of the Germans. He said it's something like a giant jackrabbit hunt, as French and British seek to capture and destroy the endless detachments of havoc on wheels. They are being destroyed, in large numbers, but that's what the Germans expect. So says the Paris commentator. He puts it this way:- "These German advance elements," he explains, "are destined to be destroyed just as were the ~~Uhlans~~ Uhlans cavalry patrols who pushed their way far ahead of the German army in NineteenFourteen - pushed almost to Paris." The modern motorized troops, he summarizes, are merely successors to those Uhlans."

Such is the picture of modernized battle, which is raging as the Allies with immense artillery fire seek to blast their way southward ~~and~~ out of the trap ^(at the weakest point.) The report is that the German wedge in that area is only thirty-five miles deep, and consists mostly of motorized elements supported by air power. Not great masses of infantry dug in and holding the line, but a maze of swiftly moving, swiftly destroying units on wheels - and on wings. Paris says that tonight the issue of the southward drive is in doubt.

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A still later bulletin announces that the Allies have battled their way to the outskirts of Cambrai, an important stronghold in the Nazi wedge. Also, the French have driven to the outskirts of Amiens. In this case they pushed from the south, driving northward. ^{So this} ~~It~~ may be the beginning of the ^{two-way} expected counter-offensive to relieve the armies in the trap, battering at the encircling line from both sides.

On the east side of the pocket - the Germans are driving a secondary wedge, trying to split the Allied army in ^{the} a trap - cut it in two. They are battering their way from Belgium, and today forced ^a crossing of the upper reaches of the River Scheldt. London reports that British troops have ^d retired somewhat before the impetus of the blow. The Nazi strategy is obvious - seeking to cut the main pocket into two pockets.

On the eastern side is the English Channel, and there today the Germans drove as far as the harbor of Boulogne. This was revealed by Prime Minister Churchill in the House of Commons. He stated that the Germans hold Abbeville, the point at which they arrived at the Channel ~~the~~ day before yesterday, on Tuesday.

From the Abbeville area motorized columns struck north along the Channel coast. "It is too early," declared the British Prime Minister, "to say what the result of this coastal fighting may be. But it evidently carried ^s with it implications of a serious character." He described it as a German penetration in the rear of the Allied lines, penetration all the way to Boulogne. Berlin ~~describes~~ ^{tells of} it as a drive against Calais.

Boulogne is only thirty miles from the British coast, and if the Germans got established there they could ~~penetrate~~ ^{easily blast with} bombard ~~such~~ ^{big guns such} British ports as Dover, Folkstone, and Deal. Boulogne is only eighteen miles from Calais and if it should remain in German hands it would quickly make Calais untenable. So said ^{the} a London spokesman today. Calais is only twenty-two miles from the coast of England.

Perhaps the most ominous part of the Nazi drive along the coast is this - Boulogne and Calais are the two most important harbors for the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force, if that should be necessary. ^{So} It is clear how serious the loss of ~~Boulogne and Calais~~ ^{the two ports} would be, if the Allies should fail to break

out of the trap. The Channel ports would then be the only lines of escape for the B.E.F. As it stands, they're the only lines for getting supplies to the armies in the pocket - half a million to a million men. And there's the dread factor of air power - bombers hitting at harbors. ^H How useable are the Channel ports to the British right now? ^{The} A spokesman for the London War Office today declared that those harbors had not been bombed so badly that they cannot still be used. But, he added - "they are open only at certain times." And that was promptly taken to mean - at night. British transports and supply ships able to use Channel ports under the cover of darkness, when night hides them from bombing fleets aloft.

What do the Nazis think about the Battle of Flanders? They say ^{they are} ~~of course they're~~ completely sure that their trap will hold and that the Allied armies ^{in it} ~~there~~ will either have to surrender or face complete destruction. But Nazi spokesmen add that they don't expect the battle to be over quickly. They say the Allies are fighting with fierce desperation and that ~~the~~ Battle of Flanders will rage for another week or ten days.

GERMAN

A late dispatch begins this way:- Berlin!-- Hitler believes that France may seek a separate peace. This was stated by a spokesman for the Nazi government. He said that Germans are taking into account the possibility that France may drop out of the war.

The Berlin spokesman

He described Hitler's war plan under four headings: First, the capture ^{or} of annihilation of the Allied armies encircled in Flanders. Secondly, the possible capitulation of France. Third, a whirlwind attack on Great Britain by air and sea. The fourth, peace, concluded on Hitler's own terms.

That's a nice sort of program for the world to contemplate.

The ^{part} ~~act~~ about France pulling out of the war may well be a propaganda suggestion aimed at Paris. *For propaganda is pouring out of Berlin.*

KAISER

The fate of the Ex-Kaiser has been discussed a good deal. Today we have a report on that formerly All Highest, Wilhelm the Second. He's ~~xxxxxxx~~ still at his Dutch estate near Doorn, his place of exile for long years. And German authorities say he's likely to stay there - not return to Germany, as has been rumored.

There's one curious story, which comes from a German source. It relates that the British Government offered the Ex-Kaiser a place of refuge in England. The story declares that the proposal was made through the British legation at The Hague - the British willing to move the one-time Emperor and his family to a new home in England. That report does have a moody touch, with reminiscence of the World War days when Britain stigmatized the German war lord as the arch fiend. Maybe in these times of Hitler and the Nazis, Kaiser Wilhelm in retrospect seems like a mild and benevolent personage. ^R How did the Ex-Kaiser take the British offer? The story, ~~always~~ from a Nazi source, states - that the exile of Doorn replied that he would go to England only in the sense that his thoughts would be with the German troops when they invaded Britain. Not such ~~xxx~~ sweet forgive and forget on the part of the old boy - if the story be true.

FIFTH COLUMN

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There were a series of arrests in England today, police rounding up a number of persons who might be charged with possible Fifth Column activities. The most startling of the arrests was that of ^{the} A Conservative member of Parliament, Captain Archibald Ramsay. He's a World War veteran and a member of the British aristocracy, educated at Eton and Sandhurst, married to the Honorable Ismay Lucretia Mary Preston, daughter of the Fourteenth Viscount Gormanston.

Captain Archibald Ramsay was a member of the Anglo-German Fellowship organization in the days when that group tried to promote better relations between Britain and Hitlerland. Lord Londonderry and Lord Stamp were also members, ^{then.} At the time of the Munich crisis, Captain Ramsay, Lord Londonderry and Baron Mottistone publicly defended the appeasement of Hitler, who, however, did not stay appeased. More recently, Captain Ramsay issued a manifesto of anti-Semitic tendencies.

No specific reason was given for the arrest of the prominent member of Parliament, save a general statement concerning all of the persons taken into custody. The statement reads:-

"This action was taken because of the danger that organizations in which the persons concerned are leading members might be used for the execution of acts prejudicial to the security of the state."

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Another prominent Englishman was arrested - though that's not so much of a surprise. Sir Oswald Mosley, the British Fascist leader. The police raided his Fascist organization, but he wasn't there. They looked for him at one place and another, and then found him - and took him away to prison. Mosley, of course, has been an advocate of friendship with Nazi Germany, and has been agitating against the continuance of the war.

Simultaneously, the London Government struck at the Irish Republican Army in Britain - ordered the expulsion of a hundred and sixty-seven members of the I.R.A., the extremist outfit accused of ~~Fxxxxxxx~~ various acts of terrorism.

IRELAND

The British are becoming concerned about Ireland.

They're worried about the possibility of the Germans invading Ireland to get a crack at Britain from the west, the back door.

Today Major Clement Attlee, ^{Labour Leader and} Lord Privy Seal, told the House of Commons that London and Dublin have been exchanging information, - discussing the danger of ^a ~~the~~ Nazi penetration of Eire.

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This was followed by a statement in Dublin by Sean O'Kelley, Deputy Prime Minister. He used the following words and they're worth pondering upon. "I am hopeful," said the Deputy Prime Minister, "that out of the present crisis good will come to Ireland. But," he added, "I hope the completion of our great national ideal will be achieved without any outside interference whatever - except such aid as the government asks in the name of the people." What he meant by "our great national ideal" is made clear by another thing he said. He spoke of the Irish determination to secure the unity of all Ireland - get Ulster and the northern counties in a union with the rest of the island.

~~Then there's the phrase - "such aid as the government asks in the name of the people." Sean O'Kelley amplified that with~~

Then Sean O'Kelley said:
the following: "We will not let anybody come here and try to
take advantage of our people or exploit our country for the
advantage of some other country." ~~And that meant suggestions~~
~~that the Germans might try to use Ireland for a back door~~
~~attack on Great Britain.~~ There ^(have been) ~~are~~ stories of possible Fifth
Column operations in Eire - an unusual number of German
newspapermen and visitors in Dublin. ^{The} Rumor - that the Irish
Republican Army have been in contact with Nazi Germany. There
was a police raid on an I.R.A. arsenal. Revolvers and bombs
were seized, and they are said to be weapons of German pattern.

SHAW

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The dread crisis to Great Britain draws ^{some} remark^s from George Bernard Shaw - typically Shavian. G.B.S. is as sprightly as ever. In London today he said that Hitler has made - an awful blunder. What kind of blunder? "The mistake of frightening the British," says Shaw. He was talking about the war dictatorship set up in London, and expressed himself as follows:- "Now that we're thoroughly frightened," said he, "we'll be all right. Until the English are frightened," observed Shaw, "they never do anything but play cricket, football, hopscotch and tennis."

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Then the Irish wit and dramatist expanded his idea in these terms:- "The Kaiser," said he, "made the mistake of frightening the English, and now Hitler has made the same awful blunder. And he's going to find out what we're like when we're frightened. "

If out-talking the enemy were of any use, George Bernard Shaw would win the war.

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Just as Hugh James talking persuades us to use Blue Sunos.