

L.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, May 14, 1940.

16

The Netherlands gave up the fight today -- everywhere save in one small corner, and most important corner it is. The motorized columns of Nazi Germany were slashing far and wide, the small army of Holland resisting with desperate courage -- opening their dykes -- but all against hopeless odds.

One Nazi drive had sliced the country in two -- battered its way from the German border to the coast. By this the main flood-land defense of the Netherlands was isolated from the Belgians and the Allies to the South.

This afternoon a proclamation was issued by ~~Commander Winkelman~~, Winkelman Commander-in-chief of the Dutch Forces. He ordered his army to stop fighting in the principal areas of defense. He ordered the resistance to cease at Rotterdam and Utrecht where the battle fighting was the fiercest hardest. This, he said, was to avoid the destruction of those great cities and to prevent needless bloodshed. Berlin flashes a bulletin that Rotterdam has capituated, surrendered, described as half destroyed. Then, there was an official announcement that the blackout of Holland would be discontinued. But in these days of machine war, no more blackout means -- no more battle. So the ruthless and overwhelming force^s of Nazi Germany have ~~has~~ conquered

small and neutral Holland in five days. Five days of savage whirlwind blitzkrieg, which Holland could not resist.

Yet the battle goes on in the area called Zeeland. The Dutch commander-in-chief, in giving the order to stop fighting, made an exception of that vitally strategic sector. Zeeland is a province of peninsulas and islands at the mouth of the Sheldt, and the metropolis

of the Sheldt is Belgian Antwerp. The Dutch continue to defend

Zealand to help the Belgians in the ^{Antwerp defense -- a} ~~defense of Antwerp~~ ^{which is a}

powerful sector of great fortifications. The Hitler invaders striking

south from captured Holland, will have to reckon with Antwerp, ^{as they} ~~French~~

^{drive down} ~~and British~~ from the North ^{against the Belgians,}
^{British and French.}

QUEEN

8

In London, Queen Wilhelmina of Holland formally established a refugee government today - this as her Commander-in-Chief on the battlefield yielded to Nazi Germany. The fifty-nine year old Queen made the ~~xxx~~ formal proclamation that she had bestowed upon the military command - "supreme authority throughout Holland, with powers to decide the future course of action." So that fully authorizes ^{today's} ~~the~~ action of the Dutch Commander.

An officer attending the fugitive Queen explained the urgency of her flight to England. He stated that the Military Intelligence Service of the Netherlands had discovered that the Nazis were pursuing a swift-striking plan of surrounding the royal seat of government at The Hague. Their intention was to capture Wilhelmina. "It was necessary," declared the Dutch spokesman today, "that this be prevented at all costs." *So the Royal Family fled.*

There has been talk in London that the Queen might abdicate, but this is denied. No question of abdication, says the spokesman.

BATTLE

19
The great battle of the Meuse that was developing all day long is on a hundred and fifty mile front which extends, generally, north and south. From the fortress of Liege down into France. The Germans claim the capture of that stronghold, but Liege forts are still resisting. Everywhere the Nazi columns are trying to drive to the west, and have reached the Meuse - that river of such long and sanguinary history in war. They ^{now} were attacking at Namur, the middle of the line, Namur heavily bombed and in flames.

There's reason for belief that the most powerful and the most dangerous German drive is at the extreme south of the line. There the motorized columns are thrusting toward the southwest and into France. ^{and} Today they captured Sedan, a few miles within the Sedan which the French had evacuated, French border. Sedan, name of dark memory for France. ~~HE~~ There, in Eighteen Seventy, the Prussians captured a great French ^h army and ~~the~~ the French Emperor, Napoleon the Third. But, Sedan is not within the Maginot Line. Or rather, that extension of the Maginot Line which covers the Belgian frontier.

It is perhaps the Nazi plan to try a break through, and outflank the main bulwark of French defense. If so, the ^{big} ~~main~~ battle

in that sector is yet to come. Or perhaps they're merely bent on flanking the French and British forces in Belgium, the units aiding King Leopold's army in the far flung battle of the Meuse. That battle has yet to reach a decisive stage. It may be days before the balance of victory or defeat is turned - the balance that may decide the fate of this war, the fate of Europe.

AVIATION

London today made an announcement of how the sky fighting is going in the great battle. A bulletin issued by the Air Ministry declares that the R.A.F. thus far has destroyed four times as many Nazi planes as the British themselves have lost. The Ministry tells of R.A.F. bombers striking at German communications, blasting highway and railroad approaches, hitting at Hitler columns - all this in spite of poor flying conditions. *bad weather.*

The Germans counter with statements of large numbers of Allied planes shot down, with small loss to themselves. Contradicting claims in what is perhaps the most significant phase of the greatest battle in history.

BEAVERBROOK

51

Today Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced the appointment of a new Minister of Aircraft Production. That's an important government bureau for Great Britain right now - the war in the air being so all-important. So who's the new Minister named to speed up the building of warplanes? He's one of Britain's most dynamic figures - Lord Beaverbrook, the press lord. He takes up the important task of turning out the planes needed to fight the sky armadas of Nazi Germany.

PARACHUTE

Great Britain is ^{rushing its} ~~creating a~~ new type of defense force -

sharpshooters to guard against parachute troops. There was a call for volunteers today, for men not liable to regular military service. Expert rifle shots are wanted especially to patrol sparsely populated areas, where parachute soldiers would be most likely to land. The sharpshooters are to be enrolled in the regular army and put into uniform - this to give them a regular military status. ~~THESE~~ Thus Britain guards against a possible trick Nazi invasion from the sky.

This evening Anthony Eden made his first speech as Secretary for War, and his radio address was a call for sharpshooters to volunteer.

ITALY

52
Italy still stands an ominous enigma, with an epidemic of anti-Ally and pro-German demonstrations - but no real sign of action. Today, students in Rome paraded, waving ~~flags~~ Italian and Swastika flags. They burned coffins with British and French flags placed under crossed umbrellas + Chamberlain umbrellas. Mussolini made an acknowledgment from a balcony, taking a bow. Shouting crowds tried to march to the Allied embassies, but cordons of ^{police}~~troops~~ kept them away.

There's one small sign that Italy does not intend to go into the war - not for some days, anyway. It's the same sort of indication as ^{last}~~several~~ weeks ago, when the Italian liner REX sailed for New York. It was said then that Mussolini would not send out his big boat, to be seized by the British - if he intended to join the struggle at once. Today it was the luxury liner SAVOIA that sailed - leaving Naples, bound for New York. This was immediately interpreted - No war for Italy in the immediate future, anyway.

There's another possible sign in the action of the

53
Italian Government in continuing ^{its} ~~an~~ exhibit at the New York World's Fair. A contract was signed today, but the Italians have insisted on a special proviso. It's a clause that cancels the World's Fair commitment in the event of, what ^{are} ~~is~~ called ~~international~~ "international developments affecting Italy." The Italian High Commissioner put it this way:- "If any ~~some~~ serious consequences or international developments occur, we are free to reconsider our action here." The big words are an ambiguous way of saying that if Mussolini should join Hitler, the Italian contract at the Fair is off.

PROTEST

There's to be a joint protest by the Republics of the Western Hemisphere - a protest against the Nazi German invasion of Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg. And the United States is joining in that Pan-American rebuke.

It comes about this way. Yesterday, the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Uruguay cabled to the authorities of Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg, sent a message of - "solidarity." After which Uruguay sent a proposal to the Foreign Minister of Panama - because Panama right now acts as clearing house in Pan-American affairs. The proposal was that all the New World Republics should join in a protest against the Nazi attack upon the Low Countries neutrals.

4
The Panamanian Minister of Foreign Affairs passed the Uruguayan message along to the capitals of the various American Republics - including Washington. Today our State Department replied - "Yes." The United States ^{will} ~~would~~ join in the rebuke. ~~What~~ What will it say? We don't know. The text of the protest has been drawn up, and Washington has okayed it. It has, however, not yet been made public.

DEFENSE

There's the busiest kind of buzzing in Washington, on the score of national defense. The White House is the scene of intense activity, forming new giant plans for increasing the armed strength of the United States. In the last one hundred hours, ^{the} President ~~Roosevelt~~ has had four defense conferences - two of them today. Before luncheon, he held a White House council consisting of Cabinet members, the Chief of Naval Operations, and the Chief of Staff of the Army. After luncheon, the President confabulated with the Chairmen of the Military and Naval Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The White House viewpoint was expressed by presidential secretary, Steve Early, and it was alarming. ~~He referred to the war in Europe, referred to it with alarm.~~ He used the figure of speech - "four alarm fire", which is quadruply alarming. Steve put it in these words:- "The feeling here," said he, "is that, if there is a four alarm fire up the street and the wind is sweeping in the direction of your home, the issue at once becomes - the protection of your home."

With that grave viewpoint, the President is prepared to ask

Congress for the biggest national defense appropriation that this nation has ever known in peacetime. The money he'll ask for armament may run as much as five hundred million dollars over and above the two billion dollars he has already requested Congress to appropriate.

How to raise the money? The public debt is near the peacetime limit of forty-five billion dollars, and public revenues right now do not equal government expenditures. So there are two alternatives. Either lift the legal lid off the public debt or impose new and special taxes for armed preparedness. The President will leave the choice to Congress.

Talking to the newspaper men, presidential secretary Early said:- "I think you can safely assume that the President, without any attempt to pass the buck, will leave the question of financing the national defense up to Congress."

The President's secretary spoke of the prospect of legislating a national defense tax, but he remarked that Congress wants to adjourn its present session in a few weeks - as early in June as possible. He mentioned the idea of increasing the limit

of the national debt -- mentioned it without comment. So it might be surmised that he regarded raising the debt limit as the more likely alternative.

The latest is a statement by the President in which he said he will ask Congress for the defense money within forty-eight hours. And he warned that raising the money is a minor problem compared with the urgency of national defense.

In Congress the Naval Affairs Committee of the House was hearing statements made by Rear Admiral Robinson, Coordinator of Ship Construction. Admiral Robinson, speaking for the Navy Department, declared that the ~~xxxx~~ national warship building program is going, in his words, "entirely too slowly." This, he said, was because of insufficient shipyard facilities. He therefore proposed that our warship building plants be put on a basis of twenty-four hours a day. Three working shifts a day. Working hours to be increased from forty to forty-eight a week. For this speeding-up process an extra three hundred million dollars would be needed -- said the Admiral.

RED CROSS

American Red Cross urges its
Today the ~~Red Cross issued an~~ appeal for funds to help

war sufferers in Europe. When a great tragedy befalls the world,
the Red Cross swings into action, and now it asks for ten million
dollars ^{more} to ameliorate suffering in the horror abroad.

STOCKS

Wall Street had something of a frenzy today - a frenzy of rumors and of selling. The rumors were the wildest kind:- Italy in the war; the Italian King abdicating; Hitler proposing terms of peace, and the Allies prepared to accept the Nazi terms. The epidemic of unconfirmed, unfounded rumors, brought an emotional reaction ~~which expressed~~ which expressed itself in terms of - sell, sell, sell. Wall Street had one of the worst breaks in years. With tickers lagging behind, ~~xxx~~ sales ran to nearly four million shares. Securities all along the line sank to new lows and prices lost a total to be reckoned in billions.

Something of the same story comes from the grain market ⁱⁿ *Chicago.* ~~In Washington,~~ Wheat and rye futures crashed to the daily limit of ten cents a bushel. Soy beans ^{and} corn, followed suit. Financial repercussions because of the war news in Europe.

MEXICO

8 1/2
From Mexico City we hear that the government of President Cardenas is developing a plan to fight fifth column activities in Mexico. Some sort of counter-espionage system is the idea, to take action against foreign spies operating south of the Rio Grande.

Our Ambassador to Mexico gave some assurances to President Roosevelt today. Josephus Daniels told ^{the} President ~~Roosevelt~~ that the Mexican Government was taking adequate measures against fifth column activities and Trojan Horse tactics on the part of Communists and Nazis.

REDS

59
The California Assembly today adopted a resolution aimed at the fifth column sort of thing. California formally asks Congress to take action in ~~xxx~~ stamping out Trojan Horse elements, ~~the~~ anti-American plots by Communists and Nazis. The California resolution describes the danger in these words:- "A blitzkrieg of Stalinism and Hitlerism." Take action against that.

9 1/4
And now my next move —
a nod to Hugh.