

WAR

L.J. - ~~Sunco~~ Tuesday, June 4, 1940.

64

The war today took the form of far flung air raids - the Allies striking deep into Germany. French planes flew all the way to Munich, the metropolis of Bavaria, the city where ~~Adi~~ Adolf Hitler started the Nazi movement. French warplanes flew over and bombed objectives on the ground. The same at Frankfort-on-Main - French bombs blasted there. These are taken to be reprisals for yesterday's Nazi bombing of Paris, but the French Air ~~Force~~ Ministry dispatch states specifically that only military objectives were attacked, factories and airfields. It is to be noted that, while German bombs hit civilian areas in Paris yesterday, the French officials are inclined to take the attitude that military targets were aimed at, with a bad aim.

Simultaneously, the British were bombing, with raids against German military stations in Belgium and Holland. Also - the great German industrial area, the Ruhr. Royal Air Force planes hit hard all day long. London states that only military objectives were bombed, and adds that the raids were in the regular course of army operations and were not in reprisal for the bombing of Paris.

they
It's apparent that ~~both sides~~ shrink from extending the indiscriminate bombing of cities.

Today's news reveals that yesterday's bombing of Paris was worse than at first reported. Figures given out today indicate a total casualty list of more than nine hundred - two hundred and forty-two people killed. That's three times as many as ~~had been~~

stated yesterday
~~stated previously. In one place a bomb hit an air raid shelter and killed a dozen children. The air raid shelter was new and incomplete and collapsed. The result was a pitiful tragedy, a particularly inhuman example of the horror of ruthless bombing.~~

~~Switzerland reports heavy German air forces flying on bombing missions into southern France.~~

47
On the ground, London reports that a huge German attack in France is about to be launched, a drive against Paris which had been indicated for days. Further north, today marked the final end of the tremendous Battle of Flanders. The Allies report that the evacuation is at last complete, and simultaneously a Berlin military dispatch announces the capture of Dunkirk. The German High Command claims the ^{seizure} ~~capture~~ of forty thousand prisoners, troops that remained to the last in the Dunkirk area.

CHURCHILL

Prime Minister Winston Churchill today gave the British House of Commons an account of the battles of Flander^{s - and}, he did not gloss over the Allied defeat with any cheery optimism. The charge of complacency can no longer be brought against the London government.

Churchill described the battle in these words:- "A colossal military disaster." He stated that the losses of the British Expeditionary

Force were more than thirty thousand -- killed, wounded and missing.

18 He said the B.E.F. have lost a thousand guns and all of its vehicles -- tanks and armored trucks -- a tremendous loss of equipment. He stated that the French army had been weakened and the Belgian army eliminated.

Churchill pointed to a mistake of strategy -- another one ~~in addition to~~ⁱⁿ the series of mistakes about which London and Paris have told us. He said that after the Germans had broken through the ^{Little} Maginot Line it was necessary for the Allies to make a swift retreat and pull out of Belgium and northern France, the area of the Channel ports.

"This strategic fact," declared Winston Churchill today, "was not immediately realized. The French High Command," he explained, "hoped that they would be able to close the gap." He did not specifically blame the French for this mistake, ^{but} ~~he~~ used these words:- "The Allies

of the North," said he, "were under their orders." It turned out ^{that} the French ~~allies~~ ^{armies} could not close the gap opened by the Nazi motorized columns, and then came the surrender of the Belgian army -- and the situation of the Allies was desperate.

The British Prime Minister told the Commons that a week ago he feared the worst:- "I feared," said he, "that it would be my hard lot to announce the greatest military disaster in our whole history.

I thought that twenty or thirty thousand men might be saved," ^{said he.} Today the announcement he had to make was very different. He said that three hundred and thirty-five thousand ^{British and French} ~~men~~ were saved from the trap in Flanders, saved by a thousand ships. Almost a miracle, an amazing deliverance, -- thanks to the British navy and Air Force. But even here Winston Churchill discouraged any kind of cheery optimism. "We

must be very careful," said he, "not to assign to this deliverance the attributes of a victory." And he added grimly, "Wars are not won by

evacuations." ^{Today Hitler made a victory speech, boasting of a million and two hundred thousand prisoners - including Belgian and Dutch.} TP Britain and France will fight on.-- the Prime Minister

made that pledge. He put it in these vivid phrases: "We shall fight in France," said he, "on oceans, on landinggrounds, in fields and in the streets."

the streets. We shall never surrender. We shall prove ourselves again able to defend our island home." And then he added:- "If necessary, alone." That last phrase gaught immediate attention; the phrase -- "if necessary, alone." In the lobbies of parliament and in London clubs the talk was about how Churchill promised Great Britain and France would battle to the end as comrades. But there was also that final contingency -- "alone." The obvious inference was -- the possibility that France might be forced out of the war.

And Winston Churchill looked still further and envisaged the possibility that even the British Isles might be conquered. A possibility which, ^{said} ~~said~~ he, "I will not for a moment believe." But if that ~~possibility~~ should come to pass, the Prime Minister of Great Britain declared today that the British Empire would still continue the struggle; ~~The British Empire~~ guarded by its fleet! Yes, reminding us that the British Empire is indeed a far flung affair. Then Churchill used words well worth pondering upon. He said -- "until in God's good time the new world with all its power and might, steps forth to the liberation and rescue of the old." The mention of the new world has ^{far} ~~a most far~~ reaching implication. And there was quick reverberation

in Washington, an interpretation by Senator Key Pittman, Chairman of
the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, ^{who said!} "If in case of extremity
^{declared Sen. Key Pittman} this act is carried out," ~~said he,~~ "the British Empire will be
maintained. The royal family, the parliament, the army and navy
officers can make of Canada a powerful country and a center of the
British Empire." ^{There has been talk over here! - What if the} ~~Soviets take over the British Fleet? That~~
A few weeks ago only the wildest imagination would
have suggested that the Isle of Britain might be lost and that the
center of the British Empire might be moved to Canada. Now this
extraordinary possibility is suggested by the Prime Minister of Great
Britain and it is interpreted in an outright statement by the Chairman
of the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate. Key
Pittman went on, ^{with a} ~~"It will have~~ further inference of the greatest
immediate importance to the United States. ^{Concerning the Winston}
Churchill declaration, he said "It substantially guaranteed the
western hemisphere against successful attack for a long long time."

seems to be answered now.

2

LEOPOLD

The case of Leopold of Belgium is again in the spotlight tonight. Today, in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Churchill referred to the way the King surrendered the Belgian army and used these words:- "I asked the House last week," said he, "to suspend judgment, because the facts were not clear. But," he added, "I do not feel that any reason now exists why we should not form our own opinion upon this pitiful episode." This was greeted by the House of Commons with shouts of "Treachery!" So it would appear that the British official viewpoint has turned against Leopold, and brands his part in the Belgian surrender as shameful.

Coincident with this, we hear that Leopold himself sent a personal letter to President Roosevelt explaining his action. This is revealed by the United States Ambassador to Belgium, John Cudahy. Last Sunday Leopold gave to Ambassador Cudahy a message for the American President, and this was transmitted to Washington. We ^{are} ~~are~~ not told what the communication contains, but there's a pretty good inkling of how it explains the surrender of the Belgian army.

Today, a friend of the Belgian royal family makes public

an account that he himself got from Leopold. He says that Leopold, now a prisoner of war, is, what he calls - "bewildered." He's bewildered by the bitter condemnation that has been heaped upon his act of surrender. His version is given at length, and it's pretty much an amplification of what we have heard before. The position of the Belgian army was hopeless, says Leopold - out of food and ammunition, and cut off from the British army by a wedge the Nazis were driving. The Ministers of his Cabinet fled, and they wanted him to flee. But he refused. He took the attitude that his place as King and Commander-in-Chief was with the army, and if there was any surrendering to be done - he'd do it.

The case of Leopold is one of the ^{personal} mordant tragedies in this war of frightful tragedy - the son of World War Hero King Albert seeking to defend himself against all the anger and scorn heaped upon him. ~~It is~~ a controversy that will have its echoes for a long time to come.

34

ITALY

Today was the day set for the decision of Italy - so all reports had indicated. The rumor was insistent that today Mussolini would tell his Council of Ministers about Italian entrance into the war. Then Italy would immediately take the plunge.

Well,
^ Today the Fascist Council of Ministers met, with Mussolini presiding. A number of measures were decreed concerning armed preparation, but, as for entrance into the war - nothing. So far as anything made public, the great moment of decision was just a dud.

continue to
Yet signs of war multiply in the Italian peninsula, as they've been multiplying for weeks. Today they had warplane exercises over Rome, and the purpose was to get the people used to military skycraft overhead - enemy planes, possibly. And there was a sudden announcement this afternoon that telephone communications between France and Italy had been suspended.

On the other hand, Washington states that President Roosevelt is still continuing his correspondence with Mussolini.

So said Presidential Secretary Steve Early. *It's well* ~~he refused to state the contents of the messages between Washington and Rome, but it's well understood that President Roosevelt is trying to persuade the Duce to stay out.~~

LATIN-AMERICA

Today's news tells us of a formal move by the Government of the United States to reaffirm, expand and clarify the Number One principle of American foreign policy - the Monroe Doctrine. ~~Congress is preparing to issue a joint resolution to make the Monroe Doctrine a more important and a more inclusive thing than ever. And today Secretary of State Cordell Hull put his emphatic okay on the joint resolution, gave his approval in behalf of the State Department and the Administration.~~

So It's a good thing for Americans to look back to the state of international affairs that brought forth the Monroe Doctrine a hundred and seventeen years ago, Eighty Twenty-three. Those were the years following the Napoleonic Wars, when the powers of Europe were determined to suppress the widespread effects of the French Revolution. A combination of the reactionary monarchs, called the Holy Alliance, were banded together to put down any kind of revolution anywhere. It so happened that the Spanish colonies in America were in revolt against Spain. So, the absolute monarchs of Russia, Austria, Prussia and France were x planning to squelch the revolution in the Latin-Americas. This, as it happened, was opposed by Great Britain.

London had a commercial interest in the affair - the British were building up a large trade with the Latin-Americas. And if Spain were to get back her American colonies, Spain would monopolize their commerce, and keep out British trade.

24
This situation led to a bitter dispute in the councils of Europe, when at the critical moment - the United States intervened. The Washington Government did not want to see all sorts of European powers and armies poking around in this hemisphere, with possibilities that they might carve up the Americas among themselves. So President Monroe issued a proclamation, the famous Doctrine. The United States would regard the intervention of European powers in ^{New World} ~~Western Hemisphere~~ affairs as an unfriendly act. Such powers as had legal possessions over here - all right. But no new-comers butting in. Thereafter the Monroe Doctrine developed as a political dogma for American foreign policy.

~~Today, it has a new and greater importance, since Nazi Germany has conquered small nations that have possessions in the new world. Moreover, there's incessant talk about the possibilities~~

~~of Nazi Fascist penetration into Latin-America. This calls for a new and~~

~~more complete statement of the Monroe Doctrine.~~ Today, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives considered a resolution to be adopted jointly by both Houses - a resolution stating that the United States Government will not approve if one European government seeks to transfer to another European government any possessions in this hemisphere.

Secretary of State Hull explained the new statement of policy in these terms: "Several European states," said he, "have had possessions in the Western Hemisphere for long periods of time and this government has ~~had~~ at no time undertaken to interfere with them. However," he added, "this government must necessarily insist that such possessions shall not become the subject of barter or conquest between rival European powers - or be made the scene of the settlement of European difficulties." In other words, the United States will not tolerate any deal or peace agreement based on a trade of European possessions in this hemisphere.

Today, the Ways & Means Committee of the House of Representatives voted to boost the National Debt limit by 4 billion dollars - a billion more than the President asked.

NATIONAL GUARD

The question of giving the President the power to call out the National Guard and the reserve forces of the army is the most debated part of the program for national defense. In fact, it's the only part that's being debated to any extent.

What kind of emergency is anticipated? What kind of trouble could arise that might send the troops off on foreign service? Where might the soldiers be sent? Today Genral Marshall spoke of these points in guarded terms. He made a number of cryptic statements to a Congressional committee. The indication pointed to ~~the~~ this hemisphere, the Latin-Americas. He referred to indirect subversive measures as -- "dangerous to us, specifically to the Panama Canal," -- said the Army Chief of Staff. He stated the necessity of giving the President power to summon the National Guard and the militia, stated it in these terms - "essential if we're going to avoid serious trouble." He indicated that the serious trouble might be expected soon. "The problem", said he "depends upon events that may occur here (the Western Hemisphere) in the next month or two." And he emphasized as follows: "We are thinking exclusively of the Western Hemisphere."

General Marshall characterized the plan as one of precaution. He used the term "fire extinguisher." Have a fire extinguisher handy, so that we may not have to call out the whole Fire Department.

None of this is very clear or specific, but it's mighty apparent from the General's testimony that the Army is apprehensive of trouble breaking loose in the Latin-Americas some time in the near future.

AND NOW SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.