

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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I don't know what history will call the battle now raging in France. Today Premier Reynaud, in a radio address to the French nation, referred to it as - "this battle of June, NineteenForty." Perhaps the future may style it - "the Battle of the Rivers", because the fighting line, which extends roughly east and west, is mostly along two streams - the Aisne and the Somme. Today the frightful conflict was mostly along the Somme, reminding us of that World War horror - the Battle of the Somme. The German drives are chiefly at the western extension of the line, where it ~~extends~~^{runs} to the English Channel. There the Nazis are trying to break through for a flanking movement around the western wing of the Allied army.

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The power of the Hitler offensive is tersely described by Premier Reynaud in these words:- "With all means, planes and

tanks, in order to break through." ^R Paris reports the number of German tanks in the battle ~~as~~ two thousand. ^R Berlin ~~reports a~~ ^{tells of a} series of advances. [The Nazis claim that in several places they've cracked what is called - "the Weygand line". They describe the mechanized thrust as crashing through at Peronne. That's the sector nearest to the center of the fighting front. There, the French positions form a salient between the River Somme and the River Aisne. The drive there might well be for the purpose ~~merely~~ of merely straightening out the salient - if it were not coordinated with other attacks further to the west. At Amiens - the Nazi motorized columns are said to be striking around the city. And at Abbeville, ~~the town~~ near the coast -- ~~there~~ the German High Command claims a sweeping advance along the shore of the English Channel. In fact, Berlin tonight claims a large advance in the southwesterly direction.

[Paris admits that the Nazi motorized drives have thrust forward, in some places five or six miles across the Somme. In one place, perhaps as much as ten miles - near the City of Peronne. But Paris explains these German mechanized advances as

being part of the ~~Anglo-French~~ strategy for stopping the ~~in~~ blitzkrieg. They say they've learned a thing or two since the mechanized tactics of the lightning war shattered ~~their way~~ through the Allied armies in Flanders, and have devised a new method to check the tremendous impact of the Nazi tank divisions.

The Weygand Line, they explain, is flexible. In fact, the French army could not have had time to construct any large permanent fortifications - it's only ten days since the Nazi mechanized forces swept across northern France. We are told that the new tactics are to let swift armored units penetrate into the defense front, get ^{through} ~~to~~ the first line. Then the defense closes behind them and stops the German infantry that tries to pour through the gap. In this way the tank units can be dealt with at leisure, blasted by artillery fire - the French Seventy-Fives.

That's how Paris is inclined to interpret the German tank advances today - letting the motorized units into the deep front, only to destroy them. Paris claims that hundreds of Nazi tanks were put out of action.

49

As the fury of battle rages on the ground, it's the same in the sky. The Germans have their usual swarms of fighting planes in action - especially the dive bombers. ~~xxxx~~
~~xxxx~~ To check them and fight them out of the air, the Allies are ^{sending up} ~~putting out~~ every plane they've got for the job. Britain's R.A.F. is hitting from across the Channel, blasting vital areas behind the German line, ~~ixxi~~ to break the attack. Air raiding far and wide, hitting at German communications, German cities. The port of Hamburg was bombed heavily by the R.A.F., and Berlin reports thirteen houses destroyed.

Paris says that the issue of the titanic struggle is in the balance, and that neither victory nor defeat is evident yet. Premier Reynaud, in telling of the violent magnitude of the German offensive, made this comment:- "I am very satisfied with the French answer." He said there was what he called - "reason for hope."

WINDSOR

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The Duke of Windsor has resigned from his military post - and there's no explanation of the reason why. Since the beginning of the war, the former King Edward the Eighth has been serving in France as a liaison officer with the British and French armies - serving ^{with} ~~in~~ the rank ~~of~~ Major-General. In France ~~that~~ with him has been his Duchess - the former Wallis Warfield of Baltimore. She has been doing various sorts of war work in Paris.

Today's story emanates from the British Press Association and relates that the former monarch of the British Empire has given up his military job. He is being succeeded as liaison officer by Brigadier-General E. L. Spears. The London Press Association adds there's no indication of whether or not the Duke of Windsor will be given another war-time appointment in the British Army.

AMBASSADORS

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The question of American armament for the Allies is a headline tonight - with the revelation that our Ambassadors to London and Paris have been ~~sitting in urgent~~ ^{putting in urgent} appeals to Washington. London Ambassador Kennedy and Paris Ambassador Bullitt have been repeatedly urging ^{Washington --} ~~Send more~~ war equipment to the British and French armies.

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The disclosure was made today when newspaper men asked White House Secretary Steve Early about a report that Ambassadors Kennedy and Bullitt had talked to Washington yesterday by trans-Atlantic telephone and had called for a speeding-up of Allied arms-orders in this country. Steve Early replied that he didn't know about any specific telephone calls made yesterday ^{for} ~~the~~ messages have been continuous. "Both Bullitt and Kennedy," said he, "are telephoning and communicating by cable, ~~and~~ asking that we do everything we can to speed up production," ~~This is accompanied by word that, more than anything else, the Allies want the warplanes which they have ordered from American factories.~~

Today, an official of the Allied Purchasing Board

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declared that thus far Great Britain and France have received twenty-three hundred military aircraft bought in this country.

He added that deliveries were slow, but ^{are} ~~they're~~ increasing.

The peak, ~~of the deliveries~~, said he, will probably be reached by next January. ~~It is understood that the Allies have placed aircraft orders in this country to a total ^{cost} amount of one billion and two hundred million dollars.~~

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There's ^{also a plan for} ~~talk of our~~ releasing to the Allies surplus equipment belonging to our Army and Navy. ~~Today the indications are that something like this is likely to happen.~~ Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau said at a press conference that the Allied Purchasing Board had informed him that they ^{want} ~~should like~~ to buy some of our surplus army equipment. ~~He replied that he had referred the Purchasing Board to the War Department - up to the War Department to decide. They say a deal is likely to be made.~~ What sort of surplus? What kind of equipment? Old army material, we are told. Armament dating back to the World War. World War artillery, for example. The army has a large stock of guns and ~~ammunitions~~ piled up

from the days of the A.E.F. - obsolete now, but ~~presumably~~ still useable. This, we are told, is the surplus ^{to be made} ~~battle equipment~~ ~~which may be~~ available to the Allies.

A later report states that a list of such material has been submitted to the Allied representatives. This list is said to classify about fifty million dollars' worth. Most of it ^{is} armament which we ourselves bought from the British during the World War. A survey is said to show a huge lot of British Enfield rifles, two million of them. Also two thousand pieces of field artillery - ~~larger~~ largely French ~~Seventy-Fives~~ ^{Seventy-Fives}, so famous in the World War.

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Attorney General Jackson says that ^{the} ~~such a~~ sale could be made to Great Britain and France without violating international law or our own Neutrality Law. It is pointed out that at various times in the recent past, we've sold left-over military material to nations like Brazil, Mexico and Finland. They say that a deal ^{will} ~~could~~ be worked out in a round-about way. The army ^{to} ~~could~~ turn over the surplus equipment to American companies, and these in turn ^{to} ~~could~~ resell to the Allies.

ITALY

There's word from Fascist Italy which strikes a sensitive American chord -- a threat of European intervention in the affairs of the Western Hemisphere. That reminds us of *the* talk ~~is~~ that some such European power as Nazi Germany may try to monkey around with the Latin Americas.

The threat comes from Gayda, the Fascist editor who for years has been regarded as a mouthpiece for Mussolini. Gayda writes that the United States is not neutral in the European war, but is favoring the Allies. He argues against this. "It is not true," contends Mussolini's mouthpiece, "that the United States has any duty to save the Old world." It may cause Europe to retaliate, says Gayda. He uses these words: "Retaliation to be used either today or at any other moment in American history." What kind of retaliation does he mean? He argues that if the United States intervenes in a European war -- "there's no reason," as he phrases it, "why one day some great European power should not intervene in favor of some American nation that happens to be at war with the United States."

The inference is plain -- the notion that some Latin American country might be incited to quarrel with the United States,

with a European power going to the help of the hypothetical

Latin American Republic. Maybe that's a tip, indicating what's

devious
in the Fascist and Nazi minds.

POPE

55

Here's a denial of a rumor that has been spreading far and wide - a report concerning President Roosevelt and Pope Pius the Twelfth. The story said that the President offered to the Pontiff a welcome in the United States, if Italy should enter the war. That of course raised the supposition that the Vatican, in the heart of Mussolini's capital, would not be such a safe place if Italy were at war with the Allies. So it might be that the Papal court might feel it expedient to move to a neutral nation - the United States, for example.

Today, White House Secretary Steve Early gave a denial to the newspaper men. They didn't go and ask him about the rumor. He called them in - the White House considered the denial ^{that} unimportant. Secretary Early spoke of the report in these terms - "it's going all over the country and probably is stirring up a lot of religious differences." Then he added:- "There is absolutely no truth in it whatever."

~~He said he was speaking for President Roosevelt in saying that there's nothing in the story that the President has offered to the Pope a refuge in the United States.~~

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CLIPPER - FILM - FREE

One of the minor amazing things about this war is the speed with which we are getting films right from the scene of action. A clipper came in today, from Europe. In addition to passengers, it carried films showing the evacuation of the British and French troops from the channel ports, events of only a few days ago. In just a few minutes I expect to sound-record these pictures for Movietone. The films show the soldiers getting away from Boulogne, being transferred from small boats to larger ones out in the English Channel; also the battle and burning of Dunkirk.

Shortly before coming here to the Studio this broadcast I was chatting with an American just in from Europe on that same clipper -- Albert F. Free, President of F. R. Tripler. Direct from London and Paris. He says that from all that he could tell, both the French and British are determined not to give up under any circumstances. He repeated what we have been hearing that they have made up their minds to fight until they win, no matter how long it takes, no matter what the cost.

He told me of his experiences in air raids, crossing the English Channel, zigzagging down the French coast, being chased

by submarines, the torpedoing of other ships in their convoy, and the bombardment, terrifying fireworks, and storming of Calais by night.

In only twenty-seven hours he had flown home from Europe -- Portugal to New York. Said Albert Free:- "Wonderful as it is to be home, it seems appalling when I think how peaceful and perfect everything is here, and how only twenty-seven hours away by plane the people are in the midst of perhaps the most terrifying experience that human beings have gone through in the entire history of man. He urged that we send help as quickly as we can, and lose no time in preparing for our own defense.

DEFENSE

Right now the United States Government is running two giant programs -- Defense, and also Relief. And here's an idea that developed today. It concerns Public Works Projects. The order was given -- concentrate on such projects as are useful for national defense. W.P.A. Commissioner Harrington has just notified all the W.P.A. Administrators:- "Give priority to public works which the Army and Navy consider - "of first importance!"

F.B.I.

8
As for the anti-Fifth Column drive in this country -- there won't be any wholesale round-up or series of mass arrests. This was stated today by Attorney General Jackson.

Extra money is being put up for the ~~XXX~~F.B.I. and the Immigration Bureau -- this as part of the defense program. Attorney Jackson, explaining to a Congressional Committee why the money was needed, ^{gen.} said:- "There will be a greater number of prisoners to be handled." This gave rise to suppositions that a Fifth Column round-up was planned, with mass arrests.

But the Attorney General today said - no, not at all. ~~He put it in these words: "Any inference that we contemplate a mass drive, or wholesale arrests because of the defense program is wholly unwarranted." He explained his remark about additional prisoners by stating - "The number of federal prisoners has been for years increasing steadily."~~

8 1/2
Now about the Sixth Column. That takes us to Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The Pottsvillites ^{are — not Pottsvillains —} have formed a Sixth Column. Of this I am informed by a telegram from General Leslie Kincaid, who commanded A.E.F. troops in France. General Kincaid, now President

of the American Hotels Corporation, wires me:- "Three hundred of the leading Pottsville^{ian} citizens met in the ballroom of the Necho Allen Hotel and formed an organization to scrutinize Un-American personalities and activities around Pottsville."

Well,
Pottsville is in the Molly Maguire country. Years ago the Molly Maguires, in Coal mine troubles, used to take pot-shots around Pottsville. And now Pottsville, with a Sixth Column, goes potting for the Fifth Column.

2 1/4 Pot-pot, put put, and here's
Hugh!