

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, MAY 21, 1940.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here is the latest -- just off the wire -- from London:-

"The government warned the British people by radio tonight to be prepared for a German invasion at any time, because Hitler's War Machine is coming near its objective."

The warning was given by Duff-Cooper, Minister of Information

He spoke of the gravity of the hour and said that Nazi mechanized troops have struck across Northern France with amazing speed to the French Channel ports.

Then he repeats the warning again. It is expected the invasion of England will get under way within a week or ten days.

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WAR Tonight the battle scene in France is a picture of indescribable terror. Paris reports that the Nazi ~~forces~~ <sup>fleet</sup> of the air has unleashed its complete fury, a sky drive of staggering intensity. The German Air Force has gone wild, raging along what Paris calls -- the red zone. That red zone of flame and havoc extends across the Northern angle of France, where the German mechanized cohorts have driven to the English channel. The purpose seems to be to break up the French counter-attack, the only way by which the Allies can save the situation.

The peril of great Britain and France is immediate and desperate -- the danger of having a million men and immense equipment isolated in Belgium and the Northern tip of France, cut off -- facing annihilation. ~~The~~ Allies must counter-attack to break the encircling German line that was flung so swiftly, and it would appear that the chief blow must come from the south ~~to~~ where the main forces of France are martialled, ~~undefeated~~ <sup>undefeated</sup> and able to organize. France must muster every last ounce of strength and hurl it in <sup>a</sup> supreme attempt to break through the strangling line the Germans have driven, isolating the ~~large forces to the north~~

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 huge forces to the north -- the British army ,the Belgian army,  
 and Part of the French army. What ~~plans~~<sup>tactics</sup> ~~attics~~ are the  
 Nazi high command using to meet the inevitable French counter-  
 attack, the supreme effort ? That question Paris answers with  
 the words - The Red Zone.

Tonight's united Press Dispatch begins this way:

"Germany's vast aerial fleet unleashed all of its fury  
 tonight in a tremendous drive to disorganize the Allied rear  
 lines in Northern France." Hitler bombers ranging afar in  
 swarms are blasting the country -- and burning it. They are  
 dropping tens of thousands of incendiary bombs on towns and  
 centers of communication, setting fires everywhere, towns and  
 villages ablaze as far as the eyes can reach - the red zone."

This in addition to the incessant thundering of high explosives.

And -  
 They're landing parachute troops in large numbers --  
 parachute troops with torches to set fire to factories,  
 railroad stations, munitions and fuel. And Parachute troops  
 with dynamite to blow up railroads and factories. Paris  
 describes the extensive use of motorcycle troops, twenty thousand  
 of them -- motorcycles dashing long the roads, setting fires

and touching off explosives.

*They are*

~~coordinating~~ <sup>coordinating</sup> their movements with lightning

thrusts by detachment of light and speedy armored cars. Yes,

and the tanks. The French dispatch states that hardly a

railroad station stands tonight -- in the red zone. ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> that

way the terror of Nazi Germany seeks to disorganize and

break up the counter-attack which is the hope of the Allies.

~~It~~ London states that the counter-thrust has begun, with the French

"fighting magnificently." Berlin claims officially tonight that

the Northern Army of the Allies is encircled, cut off, in a

trap. The Germans use the word - "sack". A rather coarse, crude

term to describe a ring of steel and fire. Not only is the Allied

Army isolated by the main German drive to the channel - it's also

being cut in two by ~~a second army~~ <sup>another</sup> German thrust from Belgium. So

claims Berlin, and adds - that the British are trying to get out

of the trap by sea, cross the English channel. They declare that

the Nazi air ~~maf~~ ~~forces~~ ~~is~~ bombing transports that are trying

to withdraw the British expeditionary force from the trap, the

pocket, that dreadful sack. ~~Here's~~ <sup>Here's</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> German statement:

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 "All British troops," it says, "apparently have been sent to channel ports for embarkation. Their retreat will be dealt with by the German Air Force!" <sup>50</sup> the Nazis add ominously.

TR What does London say? Here's a dispatch from a United Press correspondent who returned to England today from the battle front! —  
 All ~~foreign~~ <sup>foreign</sup> correspondents with the B.E.F. were sent back across the channel. ~~The~~ <sup>is</sup> story cabled by Richard McMillan was passed by the British censor. It begins with these words:  
 "London - The British Expeditionary Force today is fighting to hold its only channels of retreat in North France. The ports of Calais and Boulogne - and the ports of Ostend and Flankenburg in Belgium. I left one of the channel ports today," the American correspondent continues "when the German drive was reaching its peak and when the British Expeditionary Force had no alternative but to face the enemy in an attempt to hold the only channels left to them."

cccc He continues with this grim picture:

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 "German mechanized divisions says he were ~~rumbling~~ ~~the~~

along the roads leading to the principal ports. Allied forces were rushing to oppose them. But, "he adds, "the Nazis were ~~flashed~~<sup>flashed</sup> with victory and it seemed at the moment that no obstacle was capable of checking them."

The dispatch comes to a climax with this simply terrifying prospect: "The B.E.F." says he, "is awaiting an order from its commander -in-chief to make a terrific last stand in which it would throw all of its gunpowder, tanks, infantry and aircraft."

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The culminating German drive had the swiftness of a cataclysm, a final drive of sixty miles - not only to the vital railroad center of Amiens, but all the way to Abbeville. The mere capture of Amiens would have been a desperate blow to the communications between the Allied forces in the North and in the South. But Abbeville - that's at the mouth of the River Somme, on an arm of the sea. So the story was of catastrophic propositions - the claims made by the German high command.

52  
How true were those claims? Paris admitted the German capture of Amiens. Premier Reynaud himself announced it. London declared that as for Abbeville and the coast, only some Nazi motorized detachments had gone that far -- tank squadrons of them rolling all over the country. Paris states that the Nazi lines toward the channel is a fluid affair of confused fighting.

The latest bulletin by the German high command states only that mechanized units stabbed through to the channel, but the unofficial Berlin report is that the armored units were quickly followed by heavier forces to close firmly the line of the retreat from the north.

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GENERAL - The capture of a general in the thick of battle is a rarity in modern war--especially so important a commander as General Giraud. He loomed prominent in the war. We heard about him first when the Nazi columns broke through the Little Maginot Line --and there were intimations of the removal of the Allied commander, General Gamelin. Over this last weekend, Gamelin has been succeeded by General Weygand, but the first sign of his fall from grace was when General Giraud was placed in command of the Battle of the Bulge.

53  
How then was he captured? *All the world is talking tonight of that ironic drama, Berlin drama.* ~~Berlin tells a story of ironic drama.~~ They say that General Giraud was on his way to take personal

direction of the French Ninth Army, the force which had previously held the southern end of the line in Belgium, and was

being defeated. Nazi troops captured staff headquarters of the

Ninth Army--but no General Giraud. That was a disappointment, *to the Germans,* ~~Then~~

*Then came* the surprise. Along came the French general and his staff, to take command. They walked right in on the German troops, and were

all made prisoners.

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~~RAP. XT. TWS PAID~~

~~NEW YORK, N.Y. May 21, 1940~~

~~BOWELL THOMAS~~

~~WILLIAM PENN HOTEL PITTSBURGH PENN~~

PREMIER / On this heavy day of history, the whole world asks questions. Why? How? Why have the Allies suffered such shattering defeats? How have the Germans won such startling victories? This

54  
has been discussed for days, as thundering events have proceeded with tremendous swiftness. *But today came*

~~Today~~ an official explanation, ~~was~~ given by the Premier of France -- Candid<sup>g</sup> admission, the stark truth. Making a statement to the French Senate, Premier Reynaud used these words: -- "The nation is in danger," *said he.* "It is my duty to tell the Senate the truth." He called the battle in the Northern - "a disaster".

Giving an account of military strategy, he described the first vital blow that the Germans struck; - "a formidable attack," said he, "on the hinge of the French army established behind the Meuse, between Sedan and Namur<sup>h</sup>." The word "hinge" gives the key. When the Allied lines swung north to help the Belgians, it pivoted at Sedan, where the maginot line-proper ended, and the Maginot Line-extension begins. That pivot point was the

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hinge, and it lay along the river Meuse. Premier Reynaud said today that France believed the line of the Meuse would be impregnable. <sup>But he</sup> ~~He~~ <sup>^</sup> admitted that French strategy had been based on a misconception, the conviction that the river Meuse was an obstacle which could not be crossed. So, as the Allies swung their troops to the north in Belgium, the hinge was left weakly defended by what Reynaud called "lesser trained divisions." He also <sup>said:</sup> ~~said:~~ "Badly officered, badly trained, and thinned out." And that's just where the Germans hit, while the Allies expected them to attack in full force further north, in Belgium.

So the hinge was broken, the line of the Meuse cracked wide open, and the armored hosts of Hitler <sup>streamed</sup> ~~streamed~~ through the extension of the Maginot line with one swift blow. <sup>TP And also</sup> ~~And still~~ the French defense blundered. Premier Reynaud spoke in these grave terms, -- "Unbelievable faults were committed," said he. So grave were the faults that he promised there would be punishment for those responsible. The <sup>principal</sup> ~~principal~~ errors concerned a bridge, an

all-important bridge across the Meuse right at the hinge. Reynaud  
 declared that the cracking of the little Maginot Line was  
 largely because the <sup>+</sup>important strategic bridge was not destroyed.  
 Apparently, orders had been given to blow it up -- but, this was  
 not done. <sup>For</sup> ~~For~~ the German tank divisions dashed across, ~~and~~  
 and on their way. <sup>IT</sup> The Premier today did not say whether the ones  
 responsible for the mistake ~~xxxxxxxx~~ were mere blunderers or  
 possibly <sup>+</sup> Fifth <sup>Col</sup> ~~Column~~ traitors. However, he charged the army  
 commanded by General Corap, which should have hurried to the  
 line of the Meuse to check the German crossing -- was late, didn't  
 get there in time. The French forces were thrown into what Reynaud  
 called -- "total disorganization." He closed his military  
 analysis with these words to the French Senate: -- "You now  
 understand the disaster. This is how the hinge of the French  
 front was broken."

Washington

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RED CROSS FOLLOW PREMIER -- A pitiful state of affairs in France

was told briefly but vividly today in a cable from the American

Red Cross abroad. A desperate food shortage because of the hosts

of refugees, Belgian and French, from the Battle area. Five million

refugees! - is the report. The Red Cross cable is as follows: ~~xxxx~~

"Impossible to exaggerate refugee problem. Five million already.

Lack  
Impact of all food supplies is staggering! Resources here will be

immediately exhausted."

So there <sup>is</sup> one thing the United States can do -- send food  
supplies. *Rush them!*

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PRINCESSES        The two royal Princesses of Great Britain are seeing something new and strange to them - big, vigilant, soldierly men around them always. The royal children are under guard. Why? Because of the danger of parachutists. Britain is so apprehensive of the landing of parachute troops from the sky, that special precautions went into effect today to guard Princess Elizabeth, heir to the throne, and her little sister, Margaret Rose. Hitherto, the children of the king and queen have been quite unguarded, but now there is fear that these sky enemies who land so suddenly and in such unexpected places may seize them.

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There's talk that the two girls may go to Canada, together with the Dutch Princesses, Beatrice and Irene--daughters of Crown Princess Juliana. There has been rumors about this in Canada and in Washington, though nothing official. One suggestion is that the royal children might accompany the new governor-general when he takes his post in Ottawa, Cross the Atlantic with the Earl of Athlone and his wife, Princess Alice.

ARMY - Congressional debate began tensely today <sup>in Washington as the</sup> ~~as the~~

58/2  
lawmakers went to work on the huge appropriation bill for the army -- much money for many guns. The bill was introduced with pointed reminders of the importance of national defense--

in the light of the way things are going in Europe. Today was the most dramatic possible for the defense bill.

And the Army began its big recruiting campaign today, the call for young men to join the military forces of this

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nation. And I'm going to put in a call for Hugh James.