

German Juggernaut Cuts Through Allied Lines In 3 Places on 50-Mile Front Along the Meuse; Roosevelt Submits Huge Defense Program Today

Proposals To Be Given In Person

Senators Ask Expense Probe

WASHINGTON, (AP)—President Roosevelt decided last night to deliver his special defense message to Congress in person.

He will speak at 1 P. M., Eastern Standard Time, today. The address will be broadcast nationally and perhaps internationally over the NBC, CBS and MBS radio networks.

Stephen Early, the President's press secretary, said that the action was taken on the advice and recommendation of congressional leaders. Both houses will be in attendance.

Arrangements for the address were started as soon as the President made known his decision shortly before 10 P. M. (E. S. T.). Legislators expressed the belief that the President was using this method of demonstrating the importance of his message.

Correspondence With Italy

Simultaneously, it became known that President Roosevelt, while working on the message, has been continuing correspondence with foreign governments, including Italy, looking toward peace.

The President remained at his desk until 2 A. M. yesterday primarily to draft his message, but it was learned that he also was in telephonic communications with Secretary Hull at the State Department in connection with the foreign interchanges.

These were described authoritatively as representing no new move but merely a continuation of efforts along the line the President has pursued for the last year.

Authoritative congressional sources disclosed that a substantial part of the defense program would be devoted to a tremendous expansion of antiaircraft defenses and private munitions industries.

Legislators in close touch with the situation asserted that \$33,000,000 of the estimated \$776,000,000 armament program would be earmarked for antiaircraft guns and ammunition for mobile regiments, fixed batteries and sea-coast defenses.

Inquiries Demanded

An additional \$44,000,000, it was learned, would go for the expansion and tooling of plants for the manufacture of equipment such as semiautomatic rifles, machineguns, tanks and antitank guns. House members explained that the expansion of private facilities was aimed at cutting down the time required to produce the arms, now estimated to range between one and two years for many items.

The disclosures were made while demands were heard in the Senate for an investigation of national defense. Senator Clark (D., Mo.) shouted to the chamber that he was opposed to "pouring any more billions down the same rat-hole because we find out what the brass hats have done with \$7,000,000,000 they've already received."

In the defense program to be submitted today, the Army is slated to get \$720,000,000 of the total and the Navy about \$250,000,000, chiefly to speed up construction of warships now on the ways.

Barkley Asks Study

A \$23,000,000 slice of the funds, informed sources said, would be devoted to providing the Army's warplanes with self-sealing gasoline tanks and protective armor.

The program also calls for expenditure of about \$80,000,000 for 200 four-engined bombers, about \$365,000,000 for equipment for a land force of 1,000,000 men, and \$8,000,000 for educational orders.

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Nazis Say New Weapon 'Paralyzed' Garrison

BERLIN, (AP)—The "paralyzed terror" of the Belgian garrison of Fort Eben Emael when all its artillery and even light weapons "suddenly went out of order" at the stroke of Germany's secret weapon was described last night for German newspaper readers.

They were given little hint, however, of what the weapon is or how it works.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hesse, military writer for the Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, reporting from the Western Front, said he had talked with some of the 1,000 prisoners taken from the key Albert Canal fort last Saturday after a small air force detachment had landed in the center of the citadel and used the mysterious "paralyzing" weapon.

"The prisoners with whom I talked showed every sign of

paralyzed terror," said Hesse. "They said: 'We were unable to service our guns or machineguns any longer.'"

"A wounded Belgian officer told me: 'Suddenly all our artillery went out of order.'"

(Speculation on the new weapon has ranged from a magnetic device to render arms or ammunition useless to a form of "nerve gas" to render defenders helpless.)

Hesse said Fort Eben Emael was manned by a full Belgian regiment and had 30 pieces of artillery and 190 machineguns. Its concrete walls were 5 to 10 feet thick, he said.

Other responsible Germans quoted a high air force officer as saying of the mysterious weapon: "Annihilation of resisting power occurs in one blow—and totally."

R. A. F. Rakes Nazi Units In Belgium

London Reports Fierce Onslaught

LONDON, (AP)—The biggest fleet of Allied bombers massed for an attack in this war, 150 explosive-laden warplanes, raked German lines converging on the Meuse at Sedan with such effect, the air ministry announced yesterday, that the first German advance in that sector was halted.

The result, said the ministry, was that the French were enabled to launch Tuesday's counterattack which drove the Germans back south of Sedan just as they were getting ready for a supreme thrust into France. (The Germans attacked again yesterday north of Sedan.)

Dropping low over long columns of German soldiers, tanks, guns and trucks, the Allied bombers on Tuesday struck in waves, destroying bridges, blocking roads with wrecked war machinery, scattering marching troops, and breaking up concentrations behind the lines.

Nazis Driven Off

The bombers were accompanied by pursuit planes which drove off attacking German aviation.

The effectiveness of the Allied air counterattack was so great that even the reported loss of 35 French and British planes was declared "not excessive."

The planes often dropped to as low as 100 feet, the British said, then released "streaks" of bombs which fell on the long, narrow military columns.

Since the German offensive started in Belgium, more than 147 German planes have been brought down, the British said in a communique on Wednesday's battles. The air force brought down 124 of them while antiaircraft guns accounted for 23, the communique said.

Hard Fighting Reported

On the land front, the British told of "hard fighting" yesterday in which their troops "successfully held serious German attacks."

The British reportedly were resting their left flank on Zealand, unsundered Netherlands province along the sea, and Antwerp in Belgium, with their lines covering Brussels, the Belgian capital.

A Belgian communique said the Liege forts still were holding out, although apparently surrounded by invaders since Saturday.

The Belgians said their troops had encountered only "light enemy forces" and that demolition of bridges and roads still was going on "successfully" and preventing enemy movements.

Attacks Are Described

Correspondents with the British Expeditionary Force in Belgium telegraphed London that the Allied air arm was fighting the Germans to a standstill in a mighty encounter; and the air ministry communique told of "repeated" low-flying attacks on enemy troops.

The British flyers, the air ministry said, had given the French "valuable assistance" in the battle which developed at the historic city of Sedan and the crossings of the River Meuse.

Bridge Is Destroyed

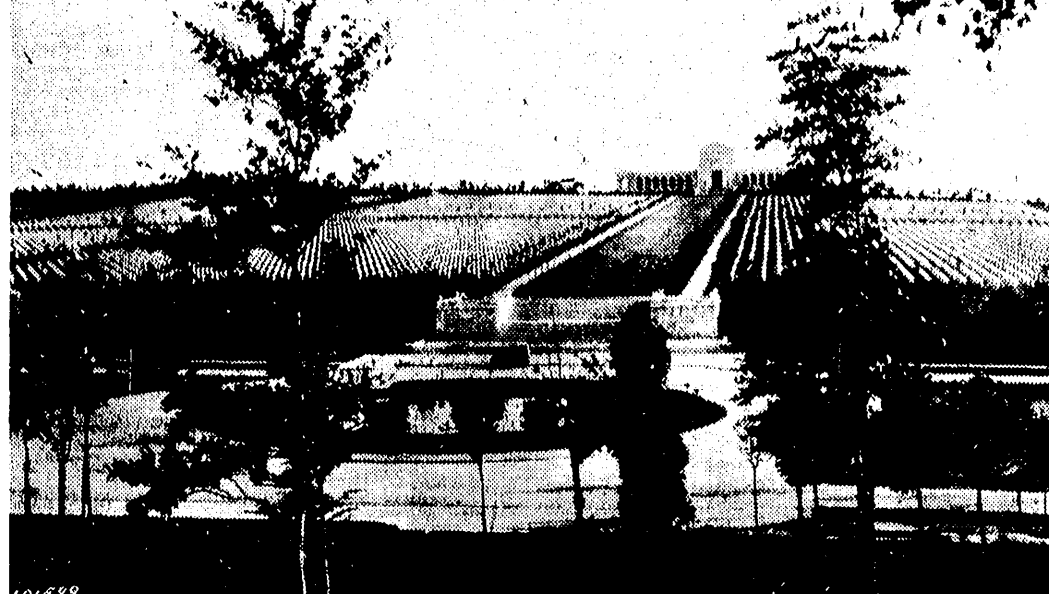
In the fighting, the air ministry said, the British had "destroyed permanent bridges and two pontoon bridges and, with antiaircraft guns, brought down 15 German planes."

The air ministry announced also that 150 Allied planes blasted German communications in the Lowlands, breaking up "large tank and troop concentrations" and blocking roads.

It asserted that an air assault delivered on Tuesday halted the German advance in the Sedan sector although the French last night admitted further German advances there. Several Nazi



Hitler Decorates Parachute Troops for Capture of Fort Eben Emael in Belgium
Lieutenant O. Witzig (second from left) Hero of the Coup d'Etat Was Promoted



American World War Graves in France Are Threatened by German Drive
Here Is a View of the Cemetery at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon Where 14,231 Lie Buried

Neapolitans Howl for War With France

ROME, (AP)—Several thousand youthful Neapolitans revived anti-Allied demonstrations last night, marching in the main street of Naples shouting old cries for French possessions.

They carried huge pictures of Premier Mussolini and signs saying "Mussolini is always right," "Chamberlain's umbrella leaks," "Djibuti, Nice, Corsica," and "Viva Italian Corsica."

Earlier, police dispersed about 10,000 students and others who gathered in the Piazza Venezia for a third day of parading and slogan-shouting.

Reports Unconfirmed

Premier Mussolini failed to show himself to the crowd yesterday, although on Tuesday he took three salutes at his balcony.

Several hundred students were reported to have started a march to the Yugoslav legation, but were dispersed after they threatened to mob a restaurant proprietor who advised them to "quit clowning and go back to school."

Official quarters could not confirm Yugoslav reports of anti-Yugoslav demonstrations at Trieste, but informed observers believed that if such demonstrations actually had taken place, they were without official sanction.

Italian soldiers continued to guard the French and British embassies as new posters were plastered on near-by walls recalling that Germany supported, but France and Britain opposed Italy during the Ethiopian war.

Lessening of tension prompted diplomatic observers to return to their assumption that Premier Mussolini would wait for a conclusive defeat of the Allies before plunging Italy into war.

The belief that Italian entry into the conflict was not imminent was strengthened by sailing of the liner Conte di Savoia with 1,000 passengers bound for New York.

Diplomatic quarters believed that one reason why Italy might prefer to wait before incurring the heavy financial strain of war was the state of the Italian budget as disclosed in the Senate yesterday by Senator Federico Ricci.

He predicted that for the fiscal year of 1940-41 the deficit would amount to 20,000,000,000 lire (\$1-1/2 billion).

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Brussels Faces Air Onslaught Despite Belgian Declarations That Capital Is an Open City

BERLIN, (AP)—The German army, acclaimed by Adolf Hitler for its swift conquest of The Netherlands, last night threatened to bomb Brussels, the Belgian capital, and slashed through French defenses north of Sedan.

With his Nazi forces hammering forward in a resurrection of the famed Van Schlieffen plan for a drive into France around the Allied left flank—a plan which failed in 1914 but which Germans are confident will succeed in 1940—Hitler in an order of the day said "the future will demonstrate the military importance" of the five-day Dutch conquest.

In a threat similar to that which brought capitulation of the Dutch, the German high command declared that if Belgian authorities wish to save Brussels from Nazi air fury, they must cease all military activity in the Belgian capital, already menaced by German troops who approached the Louvain "gateway" some 16 miles to the east.

"The Belgian government" declared on May 10 through its foreign minister in Brussels and likewise through mediation of its diplomatic intermediary, the United States embassy in Berlin, that Brussels is an open city, that no troops were in Brussels, nor would they move through the city, a high command communique said.

"This statement of the Belgian government does not correspond to the facts. German air reconnaissance during the last few days has established beyond doubt that all kinds of military columns are moving through Brussels as well as military transports through this railway junction."

"The German high command can no longer recognize Brussels as an undefended city. In case the Belgian government really is in earnest to save the city of Brussels the horrors of war, all military transports and marching through the town must cease immediately and the building of defenses must be suspended immediately."

Hitler's order of the day did not mention England, but German newspapers, which are well-nigh official here, did not hesitate to imply that an air storm might break over Britain soon.

They published maps showing that Germany, through the collapse of Holland, already had air bases 100 to 200 miles from immediate England.

The United States Lines announced it would "consider the making of arrangements for their evacuation by American vessels from those areas" (Bordeaux, Spain or Portugal).

Bordeaux at present is forbidden to American vessels by combat zone regulations.

American consuls in Switzerland were reported in Geneva dispatches to be telling Americans who wish to leave to proceed to the above destinations.

In New York, shippers expressed bewilderment over the warning to go to Bordeaux instead of Genoa.

The question of how Americans would return to America was raised immediately.

The United States Lines announced it would "consider the making of arrangements for their evacuation by American vessels from those areas" (Bordeaux, Spain or Portugal).

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Paris Plans To Wage War In the Field

Strategy Altered; Forts Abandoned

PARIS, (AP)—Charging German tanks tore gaps in the Allied positions on the Meuse yesterday after crossing the river at three points along the 50-mile front from Namur, Belgium, to Sedan in Northern France.

The Germans shifted their assaults to this sector after meeting strong French counterattacks in the Sedan region just to the south, and were reported to have "penetrated to interior of the French dispositions."

"In the face of the serious new situation, the French command has abandoned the war of position and begun a war of movement," a war ministry spokesman said.

Counter Attacks Launched

"The high command has regrouped and launched counterattacks, which are now underway," he said.

The change from stationary to mobile warfare meant that the French had decided to abandon their prepared fortifications and fight the battle of the Meuse in the field to meet the Reichswehr threat.

The sector in which the Germans broke through was defended by a line of concrete pill-boxes built along the Belgian border as a northwesterly extension of the Maginot line.

German tanks rumbling through the valley and planes roaring overhead advanced deep into this field of fortifications, defying French machine-gun fire.

French Hold Ground

Information received from French general headquarters at 8 P. M. (noon, eastern standard time) said:

"A general melee of French and German infantry, tanks and aviation is taking place... the situation appears confused..."

Reichswehr infantry tried to follow the tanks through the French lines north of Sedan, but the French troops held their ground at first.

Once the tanks got through the French lines, however, they spread out in all directions, threatening the French positions from the rear. Then some French units had to retreat.

Both in the Sedan sector and along the Meuse to the north, the German assaults continued despite French counterattacks with tanks and planes.

French Cut Train Service

At the same time, the French suddenly announced suspension of main passenger trains on a number of important lines to the southeastern part of France and the Italian border.

The war ministry said the Germans succeeded in forcing a crossing of the Meuse at several points between Namur, in Belgium, and Mezieres, five miles inland from France, and "pierced some Allied positions."

"The war of movement has begun. The situation is serious but not critical," said a war office spokesman.

The French took up new positions after they had announced their counter attack had driven back across the river about half the 300,000 Germans who on Tuesday forced a crossing south of Sedan and punched a 10-mile salient into French territory. Sedan is 50 airline miles south of Namur, and east of Mezieres.

Nazis Use Usual Tactics

The Germans were using their favorite tactics, sending waves of lumbering planes ahead to clear the ground of defenders, then their tank and armored units to force the river crossings, and finally their masses of rapidly advancing infantry.

Four general air raid alarms were sounded in Northern France during the day. To the north of Namur, the French said Allied forces had repulsed numerous "violent" tank charges. To the east along the Maginot Line, only artillery fire was reported.

The major struggle of the long Meuse front in France and in Belgium, involving perhaps 20 divisions, or 300,000 men, on each side, appeared to be concentrated about Sedan, a town which saw the collapse of the Napoleonic armies at the end of the war of 1870, and lay in the Imperial

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