

# 'Terrible Vengeance' If Axis Uses Gas

## Reports of Inhuman Enemy Plan Are Increasing Roosevelt Asserts

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL

WASHINGTON, June 9.—(AP)—A possibility that Allied troops might have to fight their way into Europe through poison gas was tempered today by assurances from the Chemical Warfare Services that effective protective devices have been developed.

President Roosevelt said Tuesday that evidence that the Axis was making "significant preparations" indicating an intention to use gas warfare was being reported "with increasing frequency from a variety of sources."

For the third time, he spoke of the possibility that the enemy would resort to what he called "such terrible and inhumane weapons," and he promised the Axis armies and peoples, in both Europe and Asia, that once they loose poison gas there will be "full and swift retaliation in kind."

### Would Strike at Cities

This retaliation, he said, will fall upon munition centers, seaports and other military objectives throughout the entire territory of the offending nations.

The United States Army has itself developed a stand-by production of poison gases, Maj. General William N. Porter, chief of the Chemical Warfare Service, said last May that if the enemy starts using war gases "we have plenty to give back and they'll probably get more than they give out."

It is known, Porter said, that Germany and Japan have large amounts of gases ready which are designed to attack the lungs, and others intended to blister and burn the skin. He added that American arsenals "can produce the same gases in almost unlimited quantities if the need arises and, moreover, our methods of protecting our own troops against enemy gases have kept pace with our production of these chemical weapons for offensive purposes."

Not only gas masks, but also salves and specially treated clothing have been developed, should the enemy once again take the initiative with gas warfare as Germany did in the last world conflict.

The President said that use of poison gases had been outlawed by the general opinion of civilized mankind and he hoped the United

States never would be compelled to use them.

President Roosevelt's statement follows:

"From time to time since the present war began there have been reports that one or more of the Axis powers was seriously contemplating use of poisonous gases or other inhuman devices of warfare.

"I have been loath to believe that any nation, even our present enemies, could or would be willing to loose upon mankind such terrible and inhumane weapons. However, evidence that the Axis powers are making significant preparations indicative of such an intention is being reported with increasing frequency from a variety of sources.

"Use of such weapons has been outlawed by the general opinion of civilized mankind. This country has not used them, and I hope that we never will be compelled to use them. I state categorically that we shall under no circumstances resort to the use of such weapons unless they are first used by our enemies.

"As President of the United States and commander in chief of the American armed forces I want to make clear beyond all doubt to any of our enemies contemplating a resort to such desperate methods that acts of this nature committed against anyone of the United Nations will be regarded as having been committed against the United States itself and will be treated accordingly. We promise to any perpetrators of such crimes full and swift retaliation in kind and I feel obliged now to warn the Axis Armies and the Axis peoples, in Europe and in Asia, that the terrible consequences of any use of these inhumane methods on their part will be brought down swiftly upon their own heads.

"Any use of gas by any Axis power, therefore, will immediately be followed by the fullest possible retaliation upon munition centers, seaports and other military objectives throughout the whole extent of the territory of such Axis country."

### Gas Warning Shows Nervousness, Nazis Say

NEW YORK, June 9.—(AP)—Berlin officialdom took cognizance Wednesday of President Roosevelt's announcement of increasingly frequent reports of Axis preparations to use gas warfare and his warning of retaliation, but attempted to pass them off as perhaps masking Allied designs.

The Berlin radio, in a broadcast recorded by the Associated Press, quoted so-called "authorized Berlin quarters," not otherwise identified, as asserting that the President's statement "showed nervousness prevailing among the Allies but perhaps also revealed a desire to procure beforehand an alibi for them in event of their entertaining such designs themselves."



### QUEEN CALLS ON "MEMPHIS"

England, June 9.—Queen Elizabeth called on the crew of the bomber "Memphis" are soon to return to the United States. George recently visited a U. S. Air Force Master Sergeant Franklin, Pa., and R. W. McLean.

## Dr. A. F. Gilmore, Christian Science Leader, Succumbs

BOSTON, June 9.—(AP)—Dr. Albert Field Gilmore, C. B. S., a trustee of the Christian Science Publishing Society, died Tuesday. During the 1922-23 year, he was president of the mother church, the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston.

Before he became active in Christian Science, Dr. Gilmore was a member of the Maine State Legislature and a publisher of school textbooks. A graduate of Bates College, he was one of its trustees for many years.

Dr. Gilmore had been a trustee of the Publishing Society since September 1, 1932. On that date he also was elected to fill a vacancy on the editorial board of the Christian Science Monitor, and he occupied that position until 1939, when the board was dissolved and an editorial council created.

### Maj. Roosevelt Buried With Honors in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, June 9.—(AP)—Military and civilian friends and admirers paid tribute Tuesday to the late Major Kermit Roosevelt, 53, son of President Theodore Roosevelt.

Services were held by the Army and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the chapel of the military post. The eulogy was delivered by Chaplain Joseph Applegate. Music was by the Air Forces Chorus.

Burial was in Alaska under wartime provisions. Major Roosevelt died June 4. In announcing his death, the War Department did not disclose the cause.

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