

X
WSC attacks Bolero - FDR shows my letter
Marshall's argument - Compromise to go ahead until Sept

110
110

Sunday, June 21, 1942.

Today is another boiling hot day with the thermometer going up to well over ninety. I went for a horseback ride in the morning with Johnny Oheen and when I got back the officer brought me up the log so that I could read it. I spent all the rest of the day waiting to be called on by the President according to his statement last Wednesday. But he got back this morning and apparently they had been having a good deal of a pow-wow and a rumpus up at the White House. He called Marshall up there and he and Harry Hopkins and Marshall and Churchill and Brooke have been having it out. Late in the afternoon, Marshall who had been there at the White House all day came in and told me about it. It was a very emotional day, because the news of Tobruk's fall came in while they were up there and of course that was a terrific blow to the Prime Minister and to all the British. Also Sevastopol is trembling in the balance. According to Marshall, Churchill started out with a terrific attack on Bolero as we had expected, due doubtless to the fairy stories that had come back from the President to the British War Cabinet by the medium of Lord Mountbatten. The President, however, stood pretty firm. I found out afterwards through Harry Hopkins that he showed my letter, with which Harry said he had been much pleased, to the Prime Minister. I had not anticipated that because I said some very plain things in it about the British. Finally, with the aid of Marshall who came into the conversation as a reserve after lunch, the storm was broken and, according to Harry Hopkins, Marshall made a very powerful argument for Bolero, disposing of all the clouds that had been woven about it by the Mountbatten incident. At any rate towards the end it was agreed that we should go ahead full blast on Bolero until the first of September. At that time the Prime Minister wanted to have a resume of the

Sunday, June 21, 1942.
Page 2

situation to see whether a real attack could be made without the danger of disaster. If not, why then we could reconsider the rest of the field. At any rate that seems to have been the substance so far. Apparently there has been no real effort made to draw us further than we had wanted to go into the Near East, but the Prime Minister had taken up Gymnast, knowing full well I am sure that it was the President's great secret baby and also knowing full well that it was an attack which would have to be carried out by us if it was made at all and entirely by ourselves with all the risks on us. However, Marshall succeeded in blowing that up and we are pretty well fortified by the Staff's documents and the fact that we have gotten the British to agree with us on the inadvisability of Gymnast.

All through the afternoon Sir John Dill and Lady Dill who had come to make a call on us were out on the back lawn where I had to break to them the news of the fall of Tobruk which they had not yet heard. General Crozier also dropped in with Mrs. Crozier while the Dills were there. Mabel went out to see them in their car in front.

The evening was spent quietly alone with Mabel.