

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The British, Canadians and Americans are forging ahead so quickly in Sicily that the news can hardly keep up their advance with ~~them~~. Long before noon, we learned that they had taken ten important towns on the seacoasts. Before four o'clock this afternoon, the number had risen to eleven. They stretch all the way from the great historic city of ~~Syracuse~~ Syracuse, one-third of the way up the East coast of the island to Licata, ~~on~~ on the southern coast. That gives the Allies a triangle of ground of a hundred and forty-seven square miles. According to the last news that came across, a battle was raging for the possession of Ragusa, an important city inland. Maybe the next thing you hear, before the evening is over, Ragusa will have fallen.

Late this afternoon, the Allied Commander-in-Chief, General ~~star~~ Twight Eisenhower, landed on the island from a British destroyer. As he came ashore, he was not ~~particularly~~ particularly

communicative, merely remarked that it appeared from all

reports that everything is going well. He drove inland ~~away~~

and paid a visit to the command post of the American troops, made a ~~xxx~~ tour of the front, talked to Canadian officers and men, and then returned to the destroyer that had brought him over.

The Axis resistance is becoming more ~~xxx~~ severe. The Germans are getting into action with tanks, but our forces have

47 have shot down ~~fourty~~ forty-five more Axis planes. As we have captured a Sicilian airdrome, our planes are now able to operate from there.

The German radio of course is trying to minimize the success of the invasion. But ~~all~~ the Axis Broadcasts are showing decided signs of confusion. Berlin says ~~is~~ one thing, Rome says another. The Nazi news agency broadcast that the Americans were beaten back after a fierce battle. Then they admitted that part of the Allied troops had fought their way

into the mountains, but only for the time being. They claim to have shot down thirty-eight Allied planes yesterday, at a loss of only ten German planes. They also claim to have sunk one Allied ten thousand ton cruiser and several transports and barges, also to have damaged three cruisers and forty-two transports.

SYRACUSE FOLLOW LEAD

What a wealth of history and drama is conjured up by the news that Syracuse has fallen. Incidentally, its capture illustrates the speed of the first phase of the invasion of Sicily. Actually, Syracuse was taken at nine o'clock Saturday evening. It was captured by the good old British Eighth Army under General Sir Bernard Montgomery.

Its quick surrender means that comparatively little damage ~~has~~ may have been done to that historic place, which twenty-five centuries ago was one of the richest, most ~~beautiful~~ beautiful, and most brilliant cities in the world. It surpassed even Athens and Corinth, whence came the colonists who originally settled Syracuse. Its temples, ~~particular~~ particularly the Temple ~~of~~ to the Olympian Zeus, its administration buildings, the palaces of its rulers and its theatre, were the envy of the western world. The military might of the Carthaginians was unequal to defeating the power of ~~the~~ Syracuse. People claim that even the Romans would not have taken the place in two hundred and twelve B.C., But for the help of a traitor.
Hitler didn't originate the idea of the Fifth Column.

Since then the Normans, the Saracens, the Spaniards,
conquered the great city, and tonight the Union Jack flies over
it in triumph

Some stories from the invasion forces tell us that most of the Sicilian prisoners have surrendered with smiles,

not to say enthusiasm. In fact, the civilians on the island

appear to be definitely relieved that it is all over. ~~They~~

They never cared for Fascism much, though Mussolini spent

huge sums on improvements trying to win them over. ~~Somebody~~

~~once again we get a picture of the Sicilians as a people of the~~

~~island.~~

The temper of the islanders may be judged from one episode. The Mayor of a town that surrendered - the story does not say which town - asked the American Commanding Officer whether he would also like to have the adjoining town. The American Commander could have only one answer. So the Mayor said, "Very well, ~~Some~~ General, I will arrange it". Off he went in ~~xxxx~~ a jeep escorted by American doughboys, and everything ~~xxxx~~ was arranged just like that.

A reporter who was with the Canadian contingent of shock troops says that ~~xxx~~ when they landed, the Italian defenses fell like concertinas. Those defenses on the beach did not amount to much anyway, just barbed wire with a few

machine gun posts. They quit firing after a few bursts.

PATTON

For several weeks, we have been hearing nothing of one of the colorful General officers in the American Army, Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr. He loomed large in the news ~~when~~ when our forces first invaded Tunisia, as Commander of the Second United States Army Corps. In the middle of April he was superseded in that command by Major-General Omar Bradley. This was a bit puzzling, because Patton, whom the Doughboys affectionately describe as "Old Blood and Guts" is not only picturesque, but an exceedingly able officer. He is addicted to going into battle with a pair of pearl handled six-shooters on his hips and is an expert at tank warfare.

The mystery of what happened to old Blood and Guts has been solved. When he was withdrawn from the Command of the Second United States Army Corps, he was assigned to ~~training~~ training troops for the attack on Sicily. And Today we learn that the General commanding the American forces in Sicily is none other than ~~old Blood and Guts~~, Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr.

RUSSIA

From the Russian front, the news ~~was~~ is hopeful. Moscow reports that the Nazi High Command ^{launched} ~~sent~~ violent tank attacks ^{against} ~~at~~ the Soviet lines between Kursk and Orel. The ~~Ger~~ German tanks rolled ahead in mass formations, as many as eighty or a hundred in one group. The way was prepared for them by heavy bombardments from big German cannon. And strong Nazi air forces bombed and machine gunned the Russian lines.

After that came the tank spearheads, ^{led} ~~headed~~ by the much boasted Tiger tanks, the latest in German armament, The Nazis had hoped that these monstrous machines would scare the daylights out of the Russians. But according to their own accounts, the Russians did not scare. Instead of that, they knocked out forty-nine German tanks at one point alone, and twenty-one were the brand new monster Tigers.

In another part of that sector, one Russian artillery crew alone is reported to have destroyed sixty-two German tanks, thirty-six enemy artillery batteries, and fourteen trench mortar batteries, in three days.

The Nazi propaganda command has already begun offering alibis for the lack of progress in the latest offensive on the eastern front. German reports are ~~exceedingly~~ vague, and make no large pretenses of having driven the Russians back. At the same time, the Nazis do claim that since July fifth, they *have* destroyed one thousand, six hundred and forty Russian tanks, one thousand four hundred Russian guns, and captured eight thousand Russian prisoners. But they fail to ~~xxx~~ name a single town or village that they have captured.

KISKA

On the little Aleutian Island of Kiska, the Japanese garrison apparently is ^{having a hard time} ~~out of luck~~. What with the bombardments by Navy ~~surface~~ ^{surface} vessels and Army bombers, the beleaguered Jap^{anese} can obtain neither reinforcements nor, what is more important, provisions. And today we learn that Army Liberator heavy bombers and Mitchell medium bombers with P.B.Y. patrol bombers came upon a Jap^{anese} convoy of four cargo ships. They ~~was~~ were taking supplies to Kiska. They sank one big cargo ship, left another in a sinking condition, and damaged the other two severely. In addition to that, a unit of light American warships bombarded the Jap^{anese} in two positions on Kiska.

Turning southward in the Pacific, we may hear of the fall of Munda before the week is out. That Jap base ~~was~~ *has* been so thoroughly bombarded from land, sea and air, that it cannot be long now. That is not official, but it is the opinion of one United Press correspondent. Uncle Sam's marines and soldiers are closing in on the place from several directions. ~~3~~ They would have had it before now but for the difficulty of penetrating through jungle territory. The Marines have cut enemy supply lines, and on the East our Infantry are only three miles ~~away~~ from Munda, and some patrols are as ~~ix~~ close as two miles. Officially, the word from Admiral Halsey's headquarters is that the situation is satisfactory.

CECIL

As a sequel to the Battle of Kula Gulf, July Sixth, we have today the story of a very gallant officer, Captain Charles P. Cecil, U.S.N., Commander of the ~~new~~ ^{lost} ~~defunct~~ Cruiser HELENA. It is a story with a happy ending for Captain Cecil, who comes from Louisville, Kentucky, has been saved.

54 He lives to tell us that before the battle began, the Japanese Naval force had already landed reinforcements on New Georgia Island. The ^{Japanese} ~~warships~~ warships were steaming away when the American fleet overtook them. Captain Cecil's description of the encounter is, "it was just like ten pins - they set them up and we knocked them down".

54 The HELENA was sunk by Jap ^{torpedoes} torpedoes, released in a darkness so thick that it was impossible to see their wakes.

When Captain Cecil abandoned ship, he first spent five hours keeping himself afloat in water covered with oil. An American ~~destroyer~~ destroyer came along and wanted to rescue him. Cecil refused, would not be pulled out of the water until all his men, who were swimming around him were safe. Then he

put in ten hours on a raft. After ~~ten~~^{ten} hours, he ~~reached~~^{landed on}
a beach where one of the cooks climbed a tree and knocked
down coconuts ^{for dinner}.

^{has} Incidentally, this was the second time Captain Cecil
had his ship sunk ~~under~~ under him. Last October he was ~~was~~

Skipper of the Destroyer PORTER, which the Japs sank in the
Battle of Santa Cruz.

HOSPITAL SHIP

One small item from the war in the Mediterranean seems to be particularly interesting. During the attack on Sicily, the Axis forces sank one of our hospital ships. She was fully loaded. Four hundred wounded soldiers were transferred and saved without the loss of a single life. This happened in stormy seas around the southeastern coast of Sicily. Even we laymen can readily imagine what an extraordinary feat of seamanship ~~this~~ this involved.

The canning industry in the United States is in a bad way, according to United States Senator Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin. He described it as being in a state of hopeless confusion. The blame for this he laid upon the Office of Price Administration. Thousands of tons of good vegetables and fruits which the farms have produced can't be preserved, said Wiley. On the ~~other~~ ^{One} hand, the O.P.A. has imposed impossible regulations. On the other hand, the War Labor Board has fixed prohibitive wage scales in the canning plants.

In Chicago, corn merchants and processors are complaining loudly about the ceilings on corn prices imposed by the O.P.A. The amount of corn received at the Chicago terminals in one week now is hardly up to the amount usually received in one good day. The industry will be demoralized, they say, unless the ceiling on corn is removed.

~~(drop last paragraph if necessary to shorten)~~

AGRICULTURE

President Roosevelt took another fling at Congress today. It was apropos of the bill appropriating Eight Hundred and forty-eight million Dollars for agriculture, the lawmakers cut out the Administration's program for crop insurance. And that doesn't sit well at the White House. Mr. Roosevelt signed the bill but he said that he hoped when the Senators and Representatives returned from their summer holiday, they would ~~re~~ reconsider and appropriate the money anyway.

DAIRY

We have been warned that we will all have to do without a lot of dairy products to which we have been accustomed. The War Food Administration announced its program today. Dairy products have to be distributed in four ways. The Armed Services of course, have the first call. Civilians, Lend-Lease and Foreign Relief organizations also have to have their shares. Of butter, the civilians will get the lion's share the coming year, eighty per cent. Civilians will get fifty-five percent of the cheese. The remaining forty-five per cent will be distributed among the Armed Forces, Lend-Lease, and Foreign Relief.

57 Canned milk and dry milk will be distributed along similar lines.

The Truman Committee ~~certainly~~ started something with its accusations that ~~the~~ defective equipment for aircraft had been sold to the government. The story grew ~~in~~ even bigger today. First of all, the Department of Justice filed suit against the Wright Aeronautical Company both in Jersey and in Ohio. On top of that, it announced that two Army inspection officers had been removed. This came from Robert P. Patterson, who is ~~the~~ Acting Secretary of War while Secretary Stimson is in England. Not only two Army Inspection Officers but several members of the personnel of the company have been replaced.

However, there was one consoling fact. Patterson assures us that none of those defective engines have ever been put in service. At the same time, he admitted that an investigating board of the Army, headed by Lieutenant General William S. Knudsen, has confirmed most of the ~~infirm~~ information disclosed by the Truman Committee.

ENDING

Lowell Thomas is back in the United States after his three weeks flying trip around South America. He will be on the air again~~xx~~ tomorrow at this time and will give us his impressions of ~~developmen~~ developments and news from the various South American countries/^{where} he has had an opportunity to familiarize himself with what has been going on/ⁱⁿthat part of our hemisphere.

1/2
And now Hugh James.