

*No Simoco Broadcast because  
San Francisco Conference  
took time.*

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FROM ROME

April 26, 1945

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

I am broadcasting from Allied headquarters in Italy tonight. With Stettin captured and Berlin surrounded by the Russians, and with the American Third and Seventh Armies driving for the Bavarian Alps, Berchtesgaden, and the Austrian Tyrol, the spectacular sweep of our armies across the Po Valley here in Italy is the latest major development in the European War, and on a scale so vast it just didn't seem possible, say a week ago. The day has been so full of important news here that I hardly know which to mention first. The fall of Spezia, the great Italian naval base. Also, the important rail center and city of Modena, also Reggio and Parma, with General Mark Clark's rampaging columns threatening to overrun the entire Po Valley at break-neck speed.

Late in the day came word that partisans in Italy's two great industrial cities, Milan and Turin, had risen during the night and today had overwhelmed the Germans and Fascists.

And on top of that comes word from the Partisans that the seaport of Genoa, hometown of Christopher Columbus, is in their hands tonight. And more important, the strategically important city of Verona has been captured. So the Germans may -- in fact almost surely will be -- cut off from getting to Hitler's National Redoubt via the Brenner Pass. Beyond this we are not permitted to give details. But the news blackout may be lifted at any time.

While down here in Italy I am wondering about Barlan Shank, wondering if he is still alive. Lieut. Shank of the 104th Division was with the American outfit nearest the approaching Russians. That was when I was with the 104th Division, the day before I flew to Berlin. With our people on the Mulde River. The



Russians eighteen miles distant, on the Elbe --  
the Germans in between.

Just as I was leaving to try and find a plane for the flight to Berlin, the phone rang at General Allen's headquarters. It was the Corps Commander, General Collins, asking if the Timber Wolves had anyone who thought he might be able to make his way through the Germans, for those eighteen miles, and contact the Russians. Lieutenant Harlan Shank of Portland, Oregon, volunteered. He's a radio expert, and he took along a portable shortwave sending outfit with which he hoped to report back to General Terry Allen. He also took along a Russian whom our people had freed from a German prison camp. They set out by night; with the eighteen miles of Germans and the two rivers between them and their goal. I wonder if they made it? It might be one of the great stories of the war.

That same day -- day before yesterday -- I was with the ground troops of the 104th, at the point where

the Americans were nearest the Russians -- with them when they all but wiped out the German town of Duben, on the east bank of the Mulde. Lieutenant Colonel George Stevens, of the Signal Corps, had put camera crews all along the Front, at places where the junction of the American and Russian Armies might take place. He himself had come to the place where I had come. In a jeep, with Big Bill Hamilton, who looks like a Mauldin cartoon, we drove to within eighteen hundred yards of the German lines, at our most advanced observation post, the village of Wellaume, with the Nazis in the larger town of Duben, right across the river. We drove up at 2:55 in the afternoon, not knowing that at 3:00 o'clock -- in only five minutes -- Duben was to be almost wiped off the map.

The previous afternoon the American Battalion Commander on this side of the Mulde, had sent the Wellaume burgomeister across with an ultimatum. Would the Nazis surrender? The answer to be, yes or no. The place was held by SS troops, who usually fight it out



to the finish, and the Wehrmacht. The Wellaume burg-omeister was blindfolded as soon as he got across the river. Nevertheless he brought back particulars concerning some of the artillery positions in Duben; also word that the SS were shooting down any citizens wanting to surrender; and, that the answer was NO.

We arrived just as Colonel Fernald of Los Angeles and Major Garth of Alexandria, Virginia, gave the order to our artillery to let the Nazis have it. They having during the night brought up mortars and a mass of motorized artillery from 104th divisional headquarters. A second bombardment was set for 3:30. The interval between the two gave us time to get to a barn a half-mile farther on, the most advanced O.P., -- and from there, high up in the hayloft, through a hole in the roof, with a private and a sergeant who were spotting hits and misses, we watched the destruction of Duben. The fantastic part of it was that aside from a few mortars, the Germans apparently had nothing with which to reply. Yet they had

refused to surrender, or even allow the citizens of the town to do so. They simply asked for destruction. Unfortunately for Germany and for the world, there are several million Germans of that type, young men trained and indoctrinated by Hitler and Goebbels. Germans themselves have told me recently that their problems can't be solved until those several million are wiped out. I wonder who is going to do it? I'm sure we won't. Perhaps, the Russians.

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Newspapers here are giving a great deal of space to the San Francisco Conference, and President Truman's address of welcome. I hope those delegates realize how the eyes of the world are focused on them -- burning, anxious eyes.

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The Spanish Steppes are right outside my window. Someone out there has been playing lilting tunes on an accordian; the fragrance of roses is in the air; and the moon is at the full. A good night to wander



over to the Coliseum and the Forum and cogitate over  
the pleasant idea of being in Rome -- Rome without  
Mussolini.

Good night -- and here's Hugh Gibson again.

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Hugh Gibson - Standard. Thursday, April 26, 1945.

(No Sunoco bc. because San Fran. Conference took time.)

C.I. on 6 mins. from Rome.

Thank you Lowell, you ~~certainly~~ haven't  
left me much to say about the war in Europe. But  
first let's hear from Hugh James with a word from  
Standard of California.



LEAD

The only facts to add to Lowell Thomases  
vivid account is that the American divisions found  
the Danube the easiest of all rivers to cross.  
Patton's Third dashed over at four points and  
his Infantry fought their way into both Ingoldstadt  
and Regensburg, both of which are liable to fall <sup>at</sup>  
any time. Patton's tanks are only eight miles  
from the Austrian frontier.

RUSSIA

The most dramatic news from the Red Armies tonight is the capture of Stettin. That is one of the most crushing blows the Nazis could sustain. Another Soviet army took <sup>unn</sup> ~~Brno~~, in Czechoslovakia. That is also an important strategic victory, for it takes away from the Germans the biggest center of munitions in Czechoslovakia.

At the same time, the <sup>Nazis</sup> ~~Nazis~~ themselves reported

3. Marshal Zhukov's tanks only half a mile away from Hitler's headquarters.

Stettin fell to Rokossovsky's Second Baltic Army, which also captured four other large towns southwest of the great Baltic port.

The Russians are not so communicative about the Battle of Berlin, ~~xxx~~ but one broadcast over the Hamburg radio reported the Red Army vanguard as having fought their way to the Potsdamer Platz. That is the exact center of the city. Meanwhile, another Soviet division is right



~~place~~ in the center of the Tiergarten, which correspondents  
somewhat to New York's Central Park.

A veritable blanket of smoke and dust hangs over  
Berlin, dust from the destroyed buildings. This fog makes  
the place so dark that even at high noon Russian officers  
have to use flashlights to sight their artillery.

ADD RUSSIA

A couple of artillery observers attached to the U.S. First Army, flew over the Russian lines today. They saw two large motorized columns of the Red armies, one crossing the Elbe; the other advancing west. One of them was entering the town of Riesa. That town, which was already in flames, is only twenty-five miles away from the front lines of the American First Army and twenty miles southwest of Dresden.

## PRISONERS FOLLOW RUSSIA

The Allied armies have now overrun most of the camps in which the Germans kept their prisoners of war, forty-seven out of seventy-eight of them. They have set free some twenty to twenty-five thousand of our soldiers. This is official, it comes from the War Department.



MUSSOLINI FOLLOW ITALY

*One thing Lowell Thomas did not tell you is:*

Benito Mussolini has been captured again.

~~we may believe a Swiss telegraph agency dispatch.~~ A group of Italian patriots found him at the town of Pallanza, on the west shore of Lake Maggiore.

*Mussolini*

~~The man with the big jaw~~ has been maintaining a puppet government in Milan under the protection of the Nazis. The advance of the Fifth and Eighth Armies made Milan too hot for him, so he went north. Somebody recognized him at a villa near Lake Como, him and Roberto Farinacci, the former Secretary General of the Fascist Party. They were traced to Pallanza, and there the patriots arrested ~~him~~. *Mussolini*

# PHILIPPINES

It will not be long now before the Yanks have Baguio, the summer capital of the Philippines. Today the Thirty-third Division drove the Japs from the slopes of Mount Mirador, which is only eight hundred yards away from the center of Baguio.

The Thirty-Third started its march on Baguio on Tuesday, and in that time advanced twenty miles, ~~starting~~ starting from sea level through mountainous territory up to an elevation of five thousand feet. In its progress, the Thirty-Third killed six thousand, seven hundred and thirteen Nips, and took only forty-five prisoners.

Better news from Okinawa tonight. The Yanks have smashed the first Japanese defense line, and captured all the strategic territory in the neighborhood. Thousands of Japanese have been killed. They withdrew during the last two days under cover of a heavy artillery barrage. A dispatch from the flagship reports that the Americans in three and a half weeks have wiped out about one-third of the Japanese garrison on Okinawa. They <sup>Japs</sup> have lost twenty to every American killed.

Still and all, the latest American advance does not mean a great deal of ground. They did not push ahead any more than a thousand yards. There are still three or four miles of Japanese installations, gun positions, pill boxes, and so forth, between the Americans and the town of Naha, the capital of the island. All the Japs have lost so far is their first main defensive positions.



CONFERENCE

At San Francisco, Soviet Commissar Molotov began the fight to get three votes in the assembly of the World Peace Organization for his country. The way he put it was that he hoped the Ukraine and White Russia might be represented at San Francisco.

Molotov took the show today at San Francisco. More newspapermen ~~pe~~ flocked to his press conference than to any other. The room was jammed to the doors. Following his press conference in which he ~~plugged~~ <sup>also advanced</sup> the Russian claim for ~~three votes~~ and the admission of the Lublin Poles, his address to the plenary session of the United Nations delegates attracted more attention and more space on the wires than the remarks of our own Secretary Stettinius.

*Not that he said much, except to repeat the Soviet demands*

Our Secretary of State and British ~~Prime~~ ~~Minister~~ Foreign Secretary Eden had one theme in common. It was the appeal against perfectionism, which is the new argument against anybody who ~~criticizes any proposal~~ <sup>suggests any improvement of the proposals</sup> for the world organization.

CONFERENCE - 2

"Do not sacrifice approval to perfection" said Stettinius. T. V. Soong of China backed them up, by urging them to sacrifice at least some sovereignty for the sense of world peace.

... it will be so pleased  
... into the World Society  
... organization when it is

This union of France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, will be prepared to acknowledge the Rhineland as an independent state, as a result of the rest of the world. There are many people in the Rhineland who would rather not belong to Germany, although they are Germans themselves. They that feeling is stronger than ever, because the Republic and labor in the Rhineland are not able to get to their mind of the Jews.

At San Francisco, the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg gave out a very interesting bit of information. Luxembourg, France, Belgium and Holland are getting ready to organize themselves into an economic union. It will be so planned as to fit quite comfortably into the World Security Organization when it is ~~organized~~ <sup>set up</sup>.

This union of France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, will be prepared to accommodate the Rhineland Germans if they set up an independent state, ~~as~~ separate from the rest of the Reich. *And now Hugh James.* ~~There have always been a~~

number of people in the Rhineland who would rather not belong to Germany, although they are Germans themselves. Today that feeling is stronger than ever, because the Catholics and Labor in the Rhineland are now able to give vent to their hatred of the Nazis.