

WJZ

SUN OIL COMPANY

LOWELL THOMAS

(
6:45 - 7:00 P.M.)

NOVEMBER 20, 1942

FRIDAY

OPENING: CODE

Lowell Thomas! Presented by your Sunoco dealer - and this evening he has something different to suggest, so listen closely. Next Thursday is Thanksgiving Day - so this weekend why don't you get in touch with the nearest U.S.O. and invite one or two service men to your Thanksgiving Day dinner? Those boys would sure enough appreciate it! And speaking of holidays:- this Christmas, why don't you get your shopping over with in a hurry and give nothing but War Bonds or Stamps? Your bank or postoffice will gladly supply you with special envelopes for Bonds and every stationery counter is featuring a wide selection of Christmas Cards for giving War Stamps. When you give for Christmas, give for Victory! Now - Lowell Thomas ...

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

From the Straits of Gibraltar, the North African coast runs ^{East and then dips} ~~west~~. Then, for a distance of about one-third of its length, the coast dips abruptly to the south - making a sharp corner, virtually a right angle.

This ~~angle~~ is ^T the northern tip of Tunisia, and tonight ~~it's~~ the key point of the conflict of North Africa.

² That angle was the site of ancient Carthage - of such great and strategic fame in classical antiquity. Today,

⁶ ~~it is~~ has two ~~xxx two~~ important places, the City of Tunis and the great French naval base of Bizerte. - ^{There the} a powerful stronghold.

~~Tonight the war situation is this:- The~~

Germans are trying to fortify themselves along a narrow line near the tip of the angle. - ~~along the line defending~~

~~Tunis and Bizerte.~~ We hear they have no very powerful force there, but are trying to get reinforcements across from Italy. ~~They intend to make their stand at the angle, and at the moment are throwing out only patrols to oppose the advance of the Americans and British.~~

IP The Allied forces are sweeping rapidly through Tunis, moving up toward the angle where the Germans are trying to dig in. ~~The objective - Bizerte, that French naval base which dominates the Mediterranean in those parts.~~

Advancing American troops have clashed with outlying Nazi forces - and this is the first time that an American army has fought with Germans since the previous World War. There were Americans in the Dieppe commando raids, and United States armored units ^{*Fought with the*} ~~followed the~~ British in Egypt; - but, those were minor affairs. *IP* In the first military engagement ^{*as*} announced today, our men defeated and drove off a Nazi armored force. German

panzers made four attacks, but these were beaten off, and then the enemy tanks were driven in retreat.

While the Americans were in battle, so were the British - and they too defeated a Nazi armored unit. The tanks that the Allies encountered are said to be of *the Marks -* a ~~March~~ Four type; ~~and that is~~ the best the Germans have - indicating that they have got at least some first line equipment in ^{to} Tunisia. ~~Moreover, dive bombers are collaborating with the tanks in trying to stop the American-British advance through Tunisia. They are pushing onward deeply into that French African province, and are aided by ~~XXXXX~~ local French troops that have come over to our side.~~ ^{IP} It won't be long now before the Americans and British start attacking the main Nazi force in that defensive angle where Tunis and Bizerte are situated.

Today a spokesman for General Eisenhower

stated: "Things are happening ~~very~~ rapidly and more is going to happen very shortly. The big fight is yet to come." And he added that the stage is being set for a - "desert Dunkirk."

Meanwhile, ^{we}~~they~~ have got so far in Tunisia, that ^{we}~~they~~ have cut off communications between that province and adjacent Italian Libya. And that is where Rommel and his beaten Afrika Korps ^{are}~~is~~ retreating right now. ~~In other words, there is now no land connection between the Germans at the Tunisian angle and Rommel.~~

In Libya, ^{Rommel has}~~the Axis forces have~~ evacuated Benghazi; - this was announced by Berlin today. The British are unopposed in the Benghazi area, and are pushing on at a fast pace. ~~They smashed through the thin German rear guard about which we heard last night,~~ trying to catch up with Rommel's ^{main}~~xxxx~~ forces. ^{The belief}~~There is~~ ^{is}~~surmise~~ that Rommel may try a stand at El Agheila, in Libya.

~~but that is not certain. The Nazi Field Marshal,~~

~~called the Desert Fox, may go all the way back to~~

~~Tripoli - in which case only two points of Axis~~

~~And between Lybia and~~
~~resistance would be left - Tripoli and that angle of~~

~~Tunis where Bizerte lies, And these may provide two~~
there may be

desert Dunkirks.

North Africa —

Bulletin

The fighting French radio
at Brazzaville in French Equatorial
Africa said tonight that all
Tunisean territory, with the
exception of the Tunis - Bizerte
stretch is now in the hands of
the Allies. The radio said
further that Allied troops have
contacted ~~the~~ Axis forces
25 miles southwest of Tunis

MILAN

Here is an interesting ^{slant on} ~~angle about~~ the war - ~~it~~
~~tells of~~ ^{the} bombing ^{of} something with a package of cigarettes.
~~(London has the story through secret channels from Italy,~~
~~and the story goes this way:~~ When British bombers
raided the great industrial city of Milan, recently,
one R.A.F. ~~war~~plane dropped a pack of cigarettes on the
great ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Cathedral of Milan - just to show that
the British could have bombed it if they had wanted to.

You can imagine the mental processes of ~~that~~
British war fliers. They were blasting great armament
production plants, and down there in the middle of the
city, in bright moonlight, they spied a glowing white
Cathedral - that dreamlike Cathedral of Milan, second
largest church in the world, second only to St. Peter's.
~~It's~~ ^{Its spires of marble so delicate, and}
~~xxxx With marble, it looks like white lace, and is~~ ^{one}
of the glories of medieval architecture. The Nazis
bombed St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and what could

have been easier ~~than~~ for the R.A.F. bomber than to shatter the Cathedral of Milan with his high explosive. Just to show he could do it, he aimed a pack of cigarettes, which scored a direct hit amid the Gothic pinnacles.

This reminds me of an interesting discussion ~~xxxxxxx~~ that a group of us radio news men had with a government war official the other day. He asked us whether we thought it would be wise for the United Nations to bomb Rome. The unanimous answer of the radio news men was - No. One spoke up and said he thought a sort of token bombing might be advisable - hit some outlying part of the city, ~~and~~ just ^{to} show that Rome with its treasures of antiquity could be bombed.

Kaltenborn said - "Why not bomb Ostia?"

He pointed out that Ostia, though some fifteen miles from the Eternal City, is the port of Rome. It [']is

really not much of a place - save for harbor structures
— and an air field. But,
put up by Mussolini, It was one of the Duce's peace time
dreams - to make Ostia into an important ^{harbor} point. Ostia
So why not bomb Mussolini's pride -
~~has been Mussolini's xx pride - so why not bomb~~ the port
of Rome? It sounded like a reasonable suggestion.

RUSSIA

The Russians appear to have scored an important success in the Caucasus, where they attacked a column of invading Nazis and drove ^{it}~~them~~ into a headlong retreat. Moscow today revises its estimate of the victory -- revises it upward. The Nazis were forty-five thousand strong -- not so strong now! ^{This}~~And the~~ defeat of the Germans has greatly eased the pressure on the Grozny oil well area.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER

Of all the flashing hero stories this war is producing, here is one for your collection of magnificent episodes - the tale of how a mere young lieutenant-commander took the place of the dead admiral, and led the flagship at the head of the American squadron ~~on~~[^] through the victorious battle.

We have all heard how Rear Admiral Callahan,^g
former aide to the President, was killed in the great clash of opposing fleets last weekend;- and today the Navy Department gives us additional facts. On the first night of the battle, Admiral Callahan's^g flagship, the cruiser SAN FRANCISCO, led a column of American warships in that daring maneuver ^{which} ~~that~~ so obfuscated the Japs - and smashed them. ^{it} The line of Uncle Sam's cruisers steamed right in between two Japanese columns that included battleships. The Japs were so confused by this daring stroke, that they fired at each other.

TP The SAN FRANCISCO delivered the first American blow, engaging a battleship at close range. A rain of shells from the SAN FRANCISCO riddled a giant of the Kongo class, and left it a battered hulk. Later, the Japanese battleship sank.

The SAN FRANCISCO, ^{having} delivered the first blow, also received the first from the enemy. It has been told how the huge fourteen inch guns of ^{a Jap} ~~the enemy~~ battleship smashed the cruiser's bridge, blowing it to wreckage. ² ~~On~~ the bridge were Admiral Callahan, Commander of our squadron, Captain Cassin, Commander of the flagship and Lieutenant-Commander Bruce McCandless of Long Beach, California. McCandless is a merely thirty-one years old, graduate of ^{the} Annapolis Class of Nineteen Twenty-Eight.

TP ^{the} A fearful blast of enemy fire killed Admiral Callahan ² and Captain Cassin, - and Lieutenant-Commander McCandless was knocked unconscious. *TP* In a few minutes he came to,

and found the ^{Commanding Admiral}~~squadron Commander~~ and the flagship

^{captain}~~commander~~ dead. So he himself took command of the

ship, and took it on [^]blazing away in battle. Under the

direction of the ^{Young}~~^~~ Lieutenant-Commander, the SAN FRANCISCO

kept its place as flagship at the head of the American

column - which ^{was plowing}~~^~~ ~~was~~ plying along between the two

lines of Jap warships, hitting them and sinking them.

In effect, the Lieutenant-Commander was acting as the

^{for} Admiral - the flagship guided our whole column in the

^{so} battle! He was an Admiral for a few hours; but, what

hours!

SOLOMONS

It turns out now that the latest Japanese losses in the great weekend battle of the Solomons were in addition to those previously enumerated. Last night we were told how in the ^{final} ~~last~~ night of the American victory, five Jap warships were sunk, including a battleship or heavy cruiser, and three ~~were~~ damaged. It could not be determined whether these were included in the previous list of twenty-three sunk or whether they were in addition. Late this afternoon, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announced - that they were in addition. So that brings the enemy loss in the weekend battle up to twenty-eight ^{sunk}.

And the Navy announced ^s ~~a~~ a land success on Guadalcanal. More than two weeks ago, the Japs succeeded in landing fifteen hundred troops at a point eleven miles east of our positions at Henderson Field. These ^{have now been} ~~are now~~ eliminated as a unified fighting force.

The Navy announces that about half of the fifteen hundred have been killed and the remainder have dispersed in the jungle. ~~The Navy bulletin tells further of successful air attacks on Japanese vessels in harbors of the Solomon Islands.~~

FILIBUSTER

In Washington, the Southern senators have called off their filibuster against the Anti-Poll Tax Bill. This they did today, as the result of an agreement - a deal with the Senators who support the bill. The agreement is this - unless the anti-poll tax advocates get a two-thirds majority vote to limit debate, the anti-poll tax measure will be shelved. The Southerners are confident that a two-thirds vote against them cannot be obtained.

METROPOLITAN

On Monday occurs the first opening of New York's Metropolitan Opera season during the present war. Which raises the question -- how does the war affect the opera in America? I have asked Edward Johnson, Manager of the Metropolitan Opera House to tell us. He has just been giving me an interesting slant, ^{saying that} ~~He says~~ the war will transform the United States, ~~xxx~~ in an operatic sense, from an import nation to an export nation. Let's ask him what he means by that.

E.J.: Just this, Mr. Thomas -- America began as an importer of operatic merchandise. In the early days, we got nearly all of our great singers from abroad -- Caruso, Scotti, Patti, Tetrazzini, Schumann-Heink, Lillie Lehman and a galaxy of others. ^{Examples} ~~Even our~~ great American operatic stars began their careers abroad, like Mary Garden and Geraldine Farrar.

L.T.: But in recent years, ^{Eddie} ~~Mr.~~ Johnson, the Metropolitan has had more and more American singers, hasn't it?

E.J.: Yes. Since the Nineteen Thirty-Five-Thirty-Six season, for example, the percentage of American singers has gone up by thirty-four per cent. And this year more than seventy-five per cent of the new additions to the Metropolitan casts are young Americans. The war, naturally, has hastened the process -- by keeping *Native Sources*.
~~European singers from coming over here.~~

L.T.: So we are not importing -- and you say the war will make us, operatically speaking, an export nation.

E.J.: Yes, Europe is involved in cultural ruin, and is not developing musical talent. After the war, the European countries will be so short of operatic artists they'll have to engage singers from abroad. And America will be the only nation able to provide them. So we'll become exporters of operatic talent.

L.T.: That sounds like a reasonable theory, a sound prognostication.

E.J.: It is more than a theory -- it is a practical fact right now. Europe always provided singers for South America, but the war has stopped that. So today South American operatic seasons are drawing their talent from the United States -- the Teatro Colon at Buenos Aires for example. They have brilliant opera down there, and now they regularly engage American singers from the Metropolitan.

L.T.: And that, Mr. Johnson, sounds like a most interesting musico-economic development -- the United States changing from operatic import to operatic export.

PROMOTIONS

56
President Roosevelt today announced two promotions -- and thereby ^{re}awarded two of America's Number One war ^{commander.} ~~heroes.~~ Vice-Admiral Halsey ~~was~~ raised to the rank of full Admiral. He is our hard-punching commander in the Southwestern Pacific, who directed our fleet in the great victory of the Solomons last weekend. (The high rank of full Admiral is always a rarity in the United States Navy. Until today we had four -- Admiral King, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet; Admiral Nimitz, Commander of the Pacific Fleet; Admiral Ingersoll, Commander of the Atlantic Fleet, Admiral Stark, Commander of American Naval Forces in European waters. And now -- Admiral Halsey, Commander in the Southwest Pacific -- number five.

The other promotion ~~announced~~ by the President makes me think that perhaps I'm a good guesser -- even though I guess wrong so often. Last Friday, when I broadcast from Washington, I looked up Mrs. James H. Doolittle -- to pay my respects to her.

PROMOTIONS - 2

We talked about her husband, who led the bombing of Japan and now is in command of the American Air Forces in the North African offensive. She told me how her last letter from Jimmy had been heavily censored, proving that generals as well as newsmen, have censors to contend with in wartime.

Then Mrs. Doolittle remarked that she had to go over to Air Force Headquarters -- General Marshall had phoned her saying he wanted to see her.

57 And I said: ["]~~I'll~~ ^{why."} Bet I can guess [^] ~~what he wants~~
~~to see you for."~~

^{"Why"?}
[^] ~~"What?"~~ she asked.

"My guess," I replied, "is that General Marshall wants to tell you they're promoting Jimmy -- from Brigadier ~~General~~ to Major General."

^{said she}
"Maybe ~~so,~~" [^] ~~she replied~~ [^] without too much conviction. The Doolittles are not the proud presumptuous kind.

The guess turned out okay -- when the

^{After the}
President raised the greatest stunt flier the Army
^{Jimmy Doolittle}
ever knew, to the rank of Major General.

It may seem astonishing to think of the one-time daredevil of speed and acrobatics as ^{the} a present day commander ^{of} for our air forces in Africa -- but then Jimmy Doolittle, even in his early days, was always ~~something~~ a lot more than the hair-raising hero of speed and stunt. He was also the engineer -- ^{scientist,} technician, I have just had a vivid reminder of this, reading a book ~~that has~~ just ~~come~~ out. ~~It is~~ Called: WINGS OVER AMERICA. The story of the romance of aviation, written by Harry Bruno. ~~Harry~~ Bruno tells of what was perhaps Jimmy Doolittle's greatest exploit as the daredevil of aviation science. He was in charge of experimental research work for the Guggenheim Foundation on the subject of blind flight -- flying with instruments alone. ~~Then~~ ^{After} technician Doolittle had worked out the ~~facts~~ scientific problems, dare-devil Doolittle went ahead and made the first

blind flight.

"On September Twenty-Fourth, Nineteen Twenty-Nine," writes Harry Bruno, "Jimmy Doolittle climbed into the cockpit of a Consolidated Husky bi-plane. His vision was cut off by a hood over the windshield and extending around to block everything, but the inside of the plane and the instruments, from his eyes.

"In the plane, three new instruments waited their supreme test. First, there was an artificial horizon -- an instrument which showed the pilot his longitudinal and lateral altitude with relation to the ground. Then there was a new sensitive altimeter and a new radio direction finder, to give him his exact altitude and invisible tracks through the sky.

"Relying on ~~these~~ three instruments, he took off, flew around for fifteen minutes, and landed -- without once looking out of the plane. ~~He flew by~~ instrument alone. But that was enough. Jimmy Doolittle had made the first completely blind flight, and he had freed pilots forever of relying on guesswork."

59