

L.T. - DELCO - MONDAY, MAY 7, 1956

(Given by Chas. Collingwood)

GOOD EVENING:

It was almost exactly nineteen years ago, that an obscure Yugoslav Communist slipped into Paris, hiding out from the police who wanted him for his part in organizing the Red international brigade in Spain. Today, that same Yugoslav arrived in Paris again, this time to be greeted with the highest honors that can be given to a visiting head of state, Marshal Tito, who rolled into Paris in an armored train. At the station, four hundred police were on guard. President Coty received the Marshal and then they drove to the presidential mansion, with an escort of seventy-five motorcycle gendarmes. The French are taking no chances. They have painful memories of what happened when the last Yugoslav head of state visited France, in 1934, King Alexander I, assassinated shortly after he stepped off the French soil. There are a lot of anti-Communist Yugoslavs in France and the government is making sure that none of them get too close to the man

responsible for their exile. Marshal Tito to have special
guards until he's safely back across the French border.

ALGERIA.

In Algeria, the latest massacre shows all the signs of careful planning. The so-called Army of Allah struck at isolated settlers in the farming area of western Algeria. First, the Rebels cut all the telephone lines in the area, then the raiders infiltrated during the night. They murdered twenty Europeans and five Moslems within the space of a few hours. And they set fire to forth homesteads, burning out some of the finest orchards and vineyards in Algeria. With the area blazing, the terrorists turned and vanished into the hills before the French troops could arrive on the scene. It was one of the worst atrocities in the recent strife-torn history of French North Africa.

STALIN.

A dispatch from London indicates more resistance inside Russia, to the downgrading of Stalin. As usual, the place mentioned is Georgia. In March, there were demonstrations in the capital city of Tiflis, when mobs rioted and a number of people were killed. Today's London dispatch refers to the May Day celebration in Tiflis. We're told that the Kremlin was forced to permit the marchers to carry large portraits of Stalin along with those of Marx and Lenin. And the newspaper of the Georgian Communist Party, that was Stalin's home state, describes Stalin as one of the leading figures of Bolshevism, a true pupil of Lenin. So the Tiflis May Day was not like the Moscow May Day. In the capital of the Soviet Union, pictures of Stalin were conspicuously absent. In the capital of the province of Georgia, pictures of Stalin were everywhere. What does Khrushchev think of that? Well, Western observers would give a lot of know the answer to that.

INTRODUCTION TO L.T. RECORDING

Well, tonight, by recording, we're going to hear from Lowell Thomas, in Asia. We've been trying to get hold of him to give us an account of his travels, he's bound, you know, for remote regions of the Himalayas and we will have had a sort of spoken travel diary from him day after day. Lowell began by having some troubles which he tells us about.

L.T. RECORDING

First, the truculent countries of the Middle East insisted that we fly hundreds of miles out of our way. Then our navigator made a miscalculation, that didn't make any difference, except to fool us until the error was discovered. Also, we had some radio jamming problems right in the middle of the night over the Sinai Desert - either the Israelis or the Egyptians, we suppose. Nevertheless, as I radioed Charlie Collingwood, our advance man in Delhi had performed a miracle. Instead of our three chartered DC-3s being taken away from us, as had been threatened, there they were waiting. So we transferred all of our fifteen thousand pounds of gear during the night. Some of us got an hour or two of sleep, and I am now sending this message to you from seven thousand feet above the Ganges plain. A few minutes ago, we gassed up at Lucknow, historic scene of the British defense of Lucknow, the fort. Remember, the climax of the (indistinct) mutiny, back in 1857, one of the most famous military events in all British history.

Anyhow, we're off again. The little-known city of Katmandu, in the hidden valley of Nepal, our next stop, we hope. The main range of the Himalaya Mountains is just ahead of us. As our giant Globemaster came to a stop at Delhi and opened its huge whale-like mouth, and as we walked down the ramp, I was greeted by a group from the American Embassy. Their startling first words were: "Welcome to India, Ambassador Lowell Thomas." And that was the first official information I had that President Eisenhower had appointed me as special ambassador to Nepal, although I had heard that it might happen.

We are on our way to attend what may be the last important coronation of a king in Asia, in our time. More about that when we actually reach Katmandu. I've just been talking to the pilot of this DC-3, Captain Chang, we were hoping that the King of Nepal for the coronation might make a runway that even our Globemaster could negotiate. It really would be something to fly the largest plane in the world to Katmandu. We expected it would be impossible and at New Delhi that was

confirmed. Captain Chang tells me that he himself was the first airman to land a plane in Nepal. It was in 1948. King Tribhubana was on the throne and he gave him the permit. He made it in a twin-Beachcraft on a flat area that the King had specially cleared. Since then, the strip has been improved a bit, a concrete base and three inches of asphalt. But even that is not enough to take a Globemaster. Even if it has no cargo and almost no gas, for its 75-tons just touching down would tear up the concrete and the asphalt. Captain Chang has just come back with word that he is swinging off course now so we can take a look down on Benares, the Holy City of the Hindus, on the Ganges. So, so long for the present. My next will be coming through from Katmandu, I hope.

COLLINGWOOD: So now we leave Lowell on his way to, well, he says the Himalayas and I'll bother him on these matters any day, on his way to the Himalayas. Tomorrow, we'll hear some of his experiences as an American Ambassador at the Coronation in Katmandu.

BATTLESHIP

Here at home, our battleship WISCONSIN is on its way back to Norfolk and along with it the destroyer escort EATON, a tug is following along just in case. We already know how the EATON swerved into the path of the WISCONSIN during maneuvers, the battle-wagon smashing into the destroyer escort tearing a hole thirty feet wide. Fortunately, no one was hurt. But for a while it was feared that the EATON might sink and that's why the tug is hovering nearby as the battleship and the destroyer limp back toward Norfolk.

TRAIN.

That train crash in Wisconsin today was particularly tragic because the coaches were full of kids, on their way to see the Milwaukee Braves play the Brooklyn Dodgers, a thousand boys and girls bound for the ball park. The train was about seventeen miles from Milwaukee when a gravel truck crashed into it. The truck hit between the engine and the first coach and ten cars were derailed. Ambulances and private cars rushed to the scene and helped carry 42 of the injured to the hospital. Fortunately, no one was killed in the crack-up.

SNIPER.

In New York, a citywide search for a mysterious sniper ended with one Todurche Sava walked into the District Attorney's office and surrendered. Sava admitted that he had fired into a religious procession during the midnight service of the Romanian Orthodox Church. He killed the church warden and wounded five other persons by shooting from a window of his room across the street. City officials, at first, thought that the assassin was probably a Communist, trying to kill Princess Ileana, sister of the late King Carol of Roumania. But New York authorities say that Sava, apparently, is not a Communist. They described him as anti-everything. In other words, as far as we know, Sava had no personal motives for the shooting, he's just anti-everything - and that includes the Roumanian Orthodox Church of New York.

TYDINGS.

The interesting thing about the Maryland primary is the return of a famous Marylander to the political wars, Millard Tydings, attempting to recapture his seat in the Senate. Of course, there is a contest between President Eisenhower and Senator Kefauver, each trying to win an instructed delegation in his favor, but in Maryland the main issue is that of Tydings. In 1950 he was defeated in one of the rowdiest political campaigns in Maryland history. That campaign attracted nationwide attention, because Senator McCarthy got into the campaign throwing his influence against Tydings. As a result, John Butler was elected. Now Tydings wants to return to the Senate and it's up to the Maryland voters, the Democratic ones, to say yes or no.

FROGMAN.

The British Prime Minister has ordered a report on a frogman, Sir Anthony Eden referring to the case of Commander Lionel Crabb, who vanished while he was working on an underwater job in Portsmouth Harbor near the Soviet cruiser that brought Khrushchev and Bulganin to Britain. The British Admiralty has announced that the frogman is presumed dead. But there've been a lot of rumors, the most sensational of which claims that Commander Crabb was captured by a team of Russian frogmen and is now a prisoner in the Soviet Union. Prime Minister Eden wants to check those rumors.

PAINTINGS.

Here's a followup to a story that we had last week. We heard then how a party of art experts were on their way to Timmins, Ontario, an oldtime gold-mining town, and the extraordinary thing about the story was that the experts were bound for the home of one Richard van Uptin Bosch to appraise a couple of paintings that he thought were Rembrandts. Today's story gives their verdict. The paintings are not Rembrandts. An examination by infra red light showed that they were signed with the name - D. Teniers. Now the specialists tell us there were three painters in Holland during the late 17th Century who had the name David Teniers, all the same family. So far it hasn't been determined which of the Teniers painted the masterpieces now in the possession of Mr. van Uptin Bosch. Where does that leave the owner financially? Well, it seems he's as well off as if he had owned Rembrandts because Teniers paintings are even rarer than those of the great Dutch master.