

Good evening everybody. Mid-air collision over Indiana - a small plane from a flying school smashing into the tail of an Alleghany Airlines jet this afternoon - as the commercial craft was coming in for a landing at Indianapolis on a flight from Boston, Baltimore and Cincinnati. Both planes crashing to earth near the small Indiana community of London. And the word from state police - no survivors, more than eighty people killed. Government officials to begin an investigation of the tragedy at once.

Attack on the Gulf of Suez. Israeli planes, tanks and ships mounting today - their heaviest raid since the end of the six-day war in Nineteen-Sixty-Seven. Blasting rocket sites, radar installations and assorted miscellaneous targets - along a thirty-miles stretch of Egyptian territory.

Later - in Tel Aviv - an Israeli spokesman setting the number of Egyptian dead - "between a hundred and a hundred and fifty;" as against Israeli losses - set at one missing, one wounded. Tel Aviv adding that this was a punitive raid - in response to "make life as difficult as possible for the other side - to try to put the boot on his foot."

In Amman, Jordan - an Arab guerilla group threatens to intensify its terrorist attacks - against Israeli overseas business installations. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine saying: "Up to now - we have been flirting with sabotage; but from now on - our actions will be more dangerous - possibly fatal."

HANOI

On the war front - Vietnam - a continuing lull today. U.S. and South Vietnamese forces - joining in an unofficial observance of that three-day Communist cease-fire.

To the North though - Ho Chi Minh was still waging - even in death - his vendetta against the hated "U.S. imperialists!" In his will - made public today - Ho urging the North Vietnamese to fight on "until complete victory." His successors adding, in effect - it will be done.

WHITE HOUSE FOLLOW HANOI

As might be expected - this casting cold water on American hopes - for maybe a permanent cease-fire . In any case - President Nixon announced today - plans for a high-level strategy meeting Friday at the White House.

Participants to include - besides the President's top civilian advisers - General Earle Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; also, General Creighton Abrams - who is flying in from Saigon.

Purpose of the meeting - we are told - to assess the situation in Vietnam - as it now stands; to find, if possible, some way in which Ho's death might speed the approach to peace.

(SUGGESTED LEAD-IN TO THOMAS TAPE SLUGGED "TANKER
MANHATTAN")

*As you know - Lowell Thomas is off winging tonight -
once again in pursuit of high adventure. And while we're
waiting to hear back from him - another special report he left
us. Topic - a favorite of his - the Far North. Lowell....*

TANKER MANHATTAN

Hello everybody: I hope you have been following the progress of The Manhattan up there in the Arctic Ocean. I have a friend who I suppose knows more about Yukon Territory, the vast region up in Northern Canada that includes the Klondike, the Robert Service country, than almost anyone. Bill MacBride for half a century or more was with the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, he also built a museum where you will find the original Robert Service manuscripts - the MacBride Museum in White Horse, Yukon Territory at the head of one of the longest rivers in the world, the Yukon. Speaking of the tanker Manhattan and its attempt to open up the Northwest Passage - that's been the dream of explorers for centuries - if it is successful it will give us a new sea route, one of the most important in the world - between the Far East and Europe, cutting the distance between Tokyo and London from fourteen thousand miles to eight thousand. If the venture fails Humble Oil will be in a thirty million

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dollar dry hole, says my friend Bill MacBride, and he adds (he's now in his eighties by the way - what a marvelous age!) he says "My guess is that this attempt to break through the Northwest Passage will fail."

I hope you're wrong Bill! And I wish that you and I were on board The Manhattan. Instead, here I am bound for the Far East and the far South Pacific.

So long.....

FOLLOW LOWELL

Just incidentally, Lowell, the Manhattan got stuck in the ice last night, but she managed to break free a few hours ago - and now is heading into McClure Strait - far up there in the frozen Arctic.

However, the military serving notice - it will still pull the strings. In addition as Minister of Defense and Minister of the Interior - two colonels who served on Bay men in the 1940s. At the same time - a third colonel - becoming commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces.

TRIPOLI

In Tripoli - a new man at the top today. Libya's week-old military regime installing as Prime Minister - a civilian - Dr. Mahmoud Soliman Al Maghreby; a leader in the nation's labor movement - also, a one-time adviser to American oil interests. His new nine-man Cabinet - further including several other civilians.

However, the military serving notice - it will still pull the strings. Installing as Minister of Defense and Minister of the Interior - two colonels who served as key men in the coup. At the same time - a third colonel - becoming commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces.

HURRICANE GERDA

Hurricane Gerda has become one of those storms that might have caused a lot of trouble - but didn't. She skirted the Middle Atlantic states today - headed for Cape Cod. . . . then at almost the last moment ~~turned~~ ^{veered} out to sea - brushing Nantucket with winds of sixty miles an hour. The Nantucket light ship - sixty miles to the southeast - reported winds of one hundred and forty-four miles an hour.

More news after this message.

Or perhaps - pictures of a soccer match. Italian

style. Good Night

CASERTA

At Caserta, Italy - another battle royal today; with an estimated fifty thousand rioters - storming through the heart of the city. For the second day in a row - burning buildings - looting shops - battling police; some of them - brought in from as far as a hundred miles away.

Original cause of the mayhem - a soccer bribery scandal - in a city that really takes it ~~so~~ soccer seriously. However, police blaming "professional agitators" - for fanning the flames of trouble. At the height of the violence - one policeman observing: "It looks like pictures from Vietnam."

Or perhaps - pictures of a soccer match, Italian style. Good Night.