

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I had half-way intended to start off here at Radio City tonight by giving the broadcast that I started to give from Panama last Friday evening, when I was suddenly cut off the air. I was sitting in Panama at the microphone, all ready to go on, and I actually heard Hugh James say: "And now Lowell Thomas broadcasting from Panama", or something like that. And just as I was about to say, Good Evening Everybody, I heard a sharp metallic click, and there I was holding a dead mike. And that was that. ^{It} It wasn't the work of Nazi saboteurs. It was just a strange accident; the sort of thing that can easily happen, especially in the Tropics. And, it ^{is} rather a good story. ^{Down there in Panama} ~~Also,~~ I had intended to tell you of a flight I had just made in a famous four-engined Army bomber with a Three Star General

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— and I that I might tell that
at the controls; [^] But, the news of the day is so
heavy, news of what has happened during the past
few hours, that I'll hold ^{up} off on that Panama tale
until an evening when the news is light. ^{TP} ~~But~~

Twilight.

^{TP} before going over the day's news with you I ~~want to~~ ^{must}

thank Ambassador Hugh Gibson for taking my place
during the two weeks ~~that I have been~~ ^{I was} away; and,
my radio colleague and old friend, Colonel

Stoopnagle who gave you the news on July Second,
the day I was flying from Rio de Janeiro to Buenos
Aires. ^{TP} These two eminent gentlemen, and Hugh James
~~were~~ here who took my place at Movietone, ~~have~~ made
it possible for me to get away for one of the few
times that I have ducked out on my radio and newsreel
work in thirteen years. ^{TP} As a result of their help

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I have visited twenty-three countries and colonies,
flown seventeen thousand miles in seventeen days --
and lost seventeen pounds; and have assembled a vast
mass of background material which should be valuable
for years, valuable in ~~interpreting~~ ^{interpreting} the news, both

during the war, and ⁱⁿ the equally difficult post-war years.

On my hurried trip I talked to the heads of governments of most of the Latin American countries, American diplomats, journalists, and people of all types, and have been with many thousands of our own soldiers, watching them at their jobs.

And now, for the subject that is uppermost in all of our minds: How our armies are getting on in Sicily, and what opposition they are encountering.

SICILY

The news from Sicily tonight features two events - the Allied capture of the Italian naval base at Augusta, and the junction of American and Canadian troops at Ragusa.

The fall of Augusta, a most important point, was announced by the enemy - with Rome telling of bomb attacks against Allied ships in the roadstead of the naval base. ^H The junction of the Americans and Canadians is related by Allied headquarters, and it is an important step in the consolidation of invasion forces in Sicily. The Americans landed at one place, the Canadians at another. Both forces thereupon spread out, fighting their way inland and along the coast. Both moved to capture the port of Ragusa, and there they joined hands.

The general picture in Sicily is one of continuing progress - satisfactory and according to plan. General Eisenhower is putting on the pressure

methodically, and broadening the areas that the Allied troops control along the shore. As evidence of smooth working efficiency, our United Nations Commander declared today that the mixed force, consisting of so many different nationalities, is as smoothly coordinated as if it belonged entirely to one nation.

~~Eisenhower's general strategy is simple, and is based on the geometrical fact that the island of Sicily is shaped like a right angle triangle. Allied landings were among along the edges of the southern angle, and their obvious plan of campaign is to thrust inland and cut off the tip of the angle. At the same time, the elements of strategy dictated a push upward along one side of the angle, the eastern side, which leads to the key point of Messina - Sicily's closest point to the Italian ~~penin~~ peninsula. The capture of Messina would go a long way toward isolating Sicily -~~

by severing its easiest line of communication. That line, right now, is being blasted to pieces by Allied air power - incessant bombing raids against Messina and against the nearest point on the other side - Reggio di Calabria. These are the two terminals of the ferry line between the mainland and Sicily.

Today's news, describing huge Allied bombings, tells of attacks on ships coming down from Sicily by an entirely different route - a route from the north, a much longer route. An Italian destroyer was hit, and so were a couple of cargo vessels. The implication is that the Axis is trying to reinforce Sicily by the longer route, because the ferry line across from Messina has been so badly battered that it is out of commission.

London today summarizes the Sicilian situation by saying that the fate of the island is likely to be

decided by a big battle between armored forces. London believes that the Axis has a mobile striking force of tanks in reserve, including one German panzer division.

The armored reserve is to be thrown into action at a strategic point - in an effort to crack the invasion.

So say observers in London, and they note that there is little mention of United Nations armored forces - which

leads them to believe that these are being held in reserve by General Eisenhower, ^{tanks} kept in readiness to

meet a heavy thrust by Axis tanks. London thinks that the decisive mechanized battle will be joined within forty-eight hours.

~~There is considerable contrast between the Allied and the Axis news - though not the kind of contrast we might expect. Allied comment is more~~

~~cautious, Axis comment more pessimistic.~~ The German

and Italian radios seem to be writing off the loss of Sicily as a foregone conclusion.

PRISONERS

Throughout the war in the Mediterranean, one beguiling phenomenon has been - the Italian prisoners. We have heard constant stories about how cheerful ^{ly} they are taking defeat and captivity - their hearts not in the war. So what about the Italian prisoners captured, not in Africa, but in their own homeland - Sicily?

A dispatch from North Africa tells of the arrival today of the first batch of captives of war. They numbered more than a thousand Italians - and exactly four Germans. The dispatch describes them as weary and dispirited. The Italians were members of the Sicilian coast defense, and seemed to be troops of poor quality. Their attitude toward the war, ^{might} ~~seemed~~ ^{have been} ~~to be~~ indicated by one thing, which the news story puts in these words - "the way they clung to their musical instruments." That sounds altogether

Sicilian - defeated in battle, made prisoners of war - they wouldn't part with their mandolins and guitars. Of course not - they need the musical instruments for accompaniment when they sing

"O sole' mio," with more ~~soul~~ soul in it ~~than~~ than ever,

The dispatch from North Africa adds that the prisoners are likely to find themselves in the United States before long, where they'll arrive ^{no doubt} still hanging on to their mandolins and guitars - ~~to sing us a few serenades, no doubt~~ still singing "O sole' mio!"

RUSSIA

The Germans are still attacking in Russia, continuing their offensive along the sector from Orel to Belgorod. But, they are making no progress, ^{so} says Moscow. A dispatch today from the Soviet capital describes the Nazis as making a whole series of sharp attacks, ~~particularly at the southern end of the line of the offensive, Belgorod.~~ All of these assaults were repelled, say the Soviets. The picture presented by Moscow is one of a big offensive that is playing out, an offensive that scored some gains at great cost, and now is in the final process of not getting anywhere.

Moscow explains the German failure in terms of Tiger tanks, and relates that the Nazis relied heavily on those huge armored monsters. At least thirty per cent of the German tank strength in the offensive was made up of Tigers. These giants of armor and gunpower, say the Russians, turned out to be deficient in

maneuverability - which is often the case with monsters.

Too big to be nimble. ^RThe Tigers, moreover, were shown to be highly vulnerable to cannon fire at short range, between a hundred and a hundred and fifty yards.

Moscow makes the comment that gunners have got to have steady nerves to stand at their weapons until the rumbling Tigers are that close, but the nerves of the Red Army cannoneers are not at all weak; - and, they've been standing their ground, shooting it out with the Tigers in close exchanges of shellfire. One unit of Russian anti-tank artillery is said to have destroyed eighty tanks in two days - and thirty-five of these were Tigers.

PACIFIC

On the island of New Georgia, American troops are now within a mile of the Japanese airbase at Munda - in addition to which an enemy force has been wiped out on a neck of land called Dragon's Peninsula. This place is about eight miles north of Munda, and the Japs on Dragon's Peninsula were trapped when the marines stormed ashore at Rice Landing. ^{TP} ~~American detachments are now both to the north and south of Munda, and that Jap airfield is virtually under siege. So it looks like another story of a last stand by the enemy. The American advance has been made with a lot of jungle skirmishing, in which our losses have been light.~~

On the nearby ocean, American naval forces have won ^{still} another victory ⁱⁿ Kula Gulf. The story broke early this morning, with no clear details about enemy losses, however. Later in the day, added information came through from the southwest Pacific, and now we

know that the Japs lost a cruiser and three destroyers and probably two other destroyers. This ~~was the second~~ ^{being} American naval success in Kula Gulf, off the north shore of Georgia Island with the Japs making ~~attempts to reinforce their garrisons at Munda.~~

Farther to the north in the Pacific - American warplanes, based on the Aleutians, may have bombed the Japanese naval base at Paramushiru Island. There's a report to that effect. Paramushiru is the Number One enemy base in the North Pacific, and it lies within bombing range of Attu. (When our soldiers weeks ago captured Attu, it was noted that they thereby acquired an Aleutian base well advanced in the direction of Japan, and might be expected to strike toward enemy home waters. A bombing raid against ^{in Japanese Kwilees} Paramushiru would fit that picture.)

The Navy has nothing to say about the matter

officially, and today's communique merely tell of three more attacks launched against Kiska, ~~the~~ island which is right next door to Attu. ~~The Navy's bulletins, saying nothing about Paramushiro,~~ ^{So} the question was taken ~~today~~ to Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. Newspapermen asked him, and he gave an ambiguous reply. Concerning reports of the bombing of the Number One Japanese naval base in the North Pacific, he said: "There is nothing I can talk about. I won't deny or affirm it."

JAPS.

Something of a crisis has arisen between the Japs and their puppet states in China -- and all because of an insult to the Mikado. In the middle of the disturbance is an unfortunate Chinese named Lin Po-Sheng, who is Minister of Information of the puppet government at Nanking.

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Lin Po-Sheng made a visit to Tokyo, and there he went to the Imperial Palace to pay his respects to the Mikado. Tokyo has special rules about Puppet states and the ceremony to which they are entitled. The Nanking Government ranks ^{not as a first class Puppet but} as a second-class puppet, and ^{as} ~~the~~ Minister of Information, Lin Po-Sheng, is a second-class statesman. So it was second-class all around -- and Lin Po-Sheng, in calling at the Imperial Palace, got no farther than the ^{2nd class} palace gate, ^{2nd class} where he signed his name in a register.

However, ^a ~~the~~ story got out that ~~Lin~~ Lin Po-Sheng had been received by the Son of Heaven in a personal and celestial audience. This was printed by ~~other~~

puppet newspapers all over China. Whereupon there was a diplomatic storm. Tokyo sent to the Nanking Government a stern note of protest -- declaring that the Mikado and all his ancestors had been insulted by the newspaper stories that an imperial audience had been granted to a second-class puppet.

It was no fooling either. The Nanking Government has made a profound and abject apology, and has likewise ordered all the newspapers under its control to print a retraction. The retraction reads: "Lin Po-Sheng had hoped for an audience with the Emperor, but was stopped because of his low morale and inadequate learning."

as very 2nd class -
Poor Lin Po-Sheng - he has lost all the face he ever had, ~~after that remark about his low morale and inadequate learning.~~

MARTINIQUE

The island of Martinique and other French possessions in the Caribbean, have definitely joined the United Nations. This is related in a report issued by the State Department in Washington, which informs us that Admiral Robert, the Vichy Governor of Martinique, has relinquished his post and turned over his authority to a commander named by the French Committee which is allied with us in North Africa.

FILM

Today the authorities at the Illinois State Prison announced that the unseemly events of last night were - an inside job. They had a motion picture preview with celebrities, film stars, and all sorts of hurrah. A prison might seem to be a peculiar place for a preview, but the motion picture was called - "Roger Touhy, Last of the Gangsters." And Roger Touhy, called the "Terrible Tommy", is at present a resident at the Illinois Pen~~itentiary~~, serving a long term. Not that "Terrible Tommy" was, himself, invited to the preview as an honor^{ed} guest. He was in his cell, while the celebrities gathered in the gymnasium of the prison. A thousand people were there, local dignitaries, motion picture executives and Starlet Lois Andrews, who came all the way from Hollywood.

The place was packed, as they waited for the film to begin. They waited, and waited - and a July night

in Illinois can be hot and sweltering. What about air conditioning - artificial cooling? It was just the reverse. The place got hotter and hotter, and the jam-packed distinguished audience was about to melt. Then the astonishing thing was discovered - the steam heat was on! Somebody had turned on the heating system, and the preview was just about broiled.

At the same time, the cause of the delay in starting the feature was determined - somebody had cut the electric cable for the sound mechanism. ^{well,} There was plenty of consternation before the heat was turned off and the cable for the sound ~~was~~ ^{whereupon} spliced, - ^{and} they went ahead with the preview of "Roger Touhy, Last of the Gangsters."

Today it was disclosed that Roger Touhy, the Terrible Tommy himself, was much opposed to the motion picture about him and the preview of it. He went so far

as to try legal proceedings to stop the whole thing. Maybe he thought the picture didn't glorify him sufficiently, or perhaps he was offended because he wasn't invited as the guest of honor at the preview.

Anyway, things happened. "An inside job", say the authorities today. Some of the boys, ^{trying} ~~tried to~~ ^{to} jinx the festive preview by cutting the sound cable and turning on the steam heat.

CONCLUSION

Before signing off I want to again express my appreciation to Ambassador Hugh Gibson, Colonel Stoopnagle and Hugh James for taking my place while I have been away, and in the case of Hugh Gibson I am going to express my thanks by telling you a little story. ~~As you know~~, Hugh Gibson at one time was our diplomatic envoy in Brazil. And while I was in Rio I called on his successor Ambassador Jefferson Caffrey, and he and many other of Mr. Gibson's old friends sent messages to him, and Ambassador Caffrey ^{also} made this remark:- "Hugh Gibson", said Uncle Sam's present Ambassador in Rio ~~de Janeiro~~, "has been one of the greatest, if not the greatest American diplomat of our time".

And although he has retired from the diplomatic service, I found that there are many distinguished people, in ~~my~~ many lands, who agree with me, that the ~~great~~ talent and the wisdom of Hugh Gibson should be used in settling the complicated world problems that are going to grow out of this

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global war.

And now let's see what Blue Sunoco
message Hugh James has for us.