

RUSSIA

Hugh Gibson - Sunoco. Wednesday, July 7, 1943.

Good Evening, Everybody. -

In Russia, the German offensive has made some progress - this is stated by both sides, though there is a definite difference in the degree of progress. Tonight's Moscow bulletin relates that the enemy, on the third day of the big drive, scored an advance in the Belgorod sector. "Some headway." says Moscow. The Belgorod sector is at the southern end of the two hundred mile fighting front, which is in violent eruption. Along the northern half between Kursk and Orel, Moscow states that all Nazi assaults have been repelled.

Berlin claims that the Nazi forces broke through both in the Belgorod sector and in the vicinity of Kursk. Tonight's German communique makes the first enemy claim of any real success in the current offensive, and states that the ~~main~~ main Russian front facing Kursk has been broken, the Germans crashing through.

The Soviets continue to emphasize the huge
German losses of men and planes - and especially tanks.
The figure given for Nazi tanks knocked out is now
above twelve hundred, ~~an immense loss of armor. Moscow~~
~~pictures the Germans as attacking with extreme violence~~
~~and haphazard desperation. They are said to be pouring~~
~~forces in at a reckless rate, striking incessantly~~
~~and sometimes without rhyme or reason, as if confused.~~

PACIFIC

Today we have what appears to be a complete tally of the loss sustained by ourselves and the enemy in the Battle of Kula Gulf. (The Navy announces that six Japanese warships were probably sunk, and several were damaged ^{in the Battle of Kula Gulf} The sinkings are admitted to be probable rather than certain, but the caution the Navy employs only adds to the belief that enemy warships were sent to the bottom.

The Navy reveals the identity of a cruiser, the sinking of which was announced previously. The cruiser was the HELENA, a ninety-seven hundred ton craft which had been damaged at Pearl Harbor. The HELENA was one of the American warships hit by Japanese bombs ~~in the~~ ~~battle~~ on December Seventh. She was repaired, and went to ~~the~~ the battle again. She was one of the craft that fought in the battle of light forces in Kula bay, and was one of the three ships that we have lost thus far in

the battle of the central Solomons. The other two were the destroyer STRONG, and a transport.

It would appear that the fighting in the gulf north of New Georgia is ended, although London gives us a report that the Japanese naval force that took part in the engagement has been trapped in Kula Gulf, and can't get out.

The land engagement on New Georgia Island continues, with the Marines meeting with what today's dispatch calls "continuing success." The Leathernecks are pushing through New Georgia jungles toward the Japanese air base at Munda. We are not told how far they have progressed since their landing at Viru, thirty miles from Munda. But they are doing ^{well} ~~all right~~, as is indicated by a Washington informant who said today: "Operations are going fine, and everything is on the up and up."

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There is not much news from New Guinea, where General MacArthur's troops have pushed to within a few miles of the key Jap base at Salamaua. The blow launched at the Japs on New Guinea was part of the far flung operation, and included the American drive in the central Solomons, but just what has been happening on the New Guinea sector is not too clear. Today's dispatch from Allied headquarters in Australia indicates that the Japs may have reinforced their air power along the line between New Guinea and the central Solomons.

~~This belief is based on the revelation that on Tuesday the Japs sent a total of a hundred and one planes into action. These made attacks at various places. Japanese air power has been hit hard in previous battles of the sky out there, and now the depleted air forces of the enemy appear to have been reinforced.~~

Far to the north, in those Arctic latitudes,

American warships blasted the Japs in the Aleutians,
at Kiska. That important enemy base is a constant target
for bombing planes, and now ships of the Navy have
added their shells to the air bombs in smashing the Jap.

TROBRIAND

~~Hugh Gibson Sun. sec. Wednesday, July 7, 1943.~~

One feature of the South Pacific war has been the American occupation of some [redacted] peculiar islands, fantastic places where the soldiers of the United States have found strange scenes and paradoxical people. Among all these islands, the prize for being topsy-turvy land seems to go to the Trobriant group. Immediately after General MacArthur's forces occupied the Trobriands, it was noted that the dusky natives of the islands had a rather scarlet reputation on the score of morals.

That has been followed by other disclosures concerning such matters as fishing, singing and gambling.

Today, United Press Correspondent William C. Wilson, who landed with the troops in the Trobriands, tells how mystified the soldiers were when they saw how the islanders went fishing. To catch fish, the natives use spider webs. These are described as giant webs, six feet across. They are spun by mammoth spiders that

measure five inches across. The spider web fish-lures are suspended from kites, and dangle down on the water. When a fish takes a bite, he gets his teeth tangled in the spiderweb, and can't get loose. That was something which the catfish anglers from Mississippi and the picker^l fishermen from New England had never seen before - that way of going fishing by flying a spider web from a kite.

or As for singing in the Trobriand Islands, that was something which made the boys feel at home, at first. The fuzzy-wuzzy tribesmen, instead of howling some barbarous war chant, raised their voices in the good old barber shop accents of "Clementine". Remember that old American classic - "Oh my darling Clementine?" The South Sea Islanders sang it perfectly, words and music. And that did make the boys think they were back in Dubuque, Nashville or San Antonio. Then, however,

they discovered that the natives didn't have the slightest idea of the meaning of the words they were singing. "Clementine" might have been some kind of a jack rabbit, so far as they were concerned. It appears that missionaries in times past had taught the Gospel in the islands - and not only the Gospel but also "Clementine." The news dispatch states that ~~some~~ some of the natives know as many as a hundred verses of the song - I didn't know there were that many. ~~that~~

_____.

The element of gambling among the Trobriand Islanders provided the American troops with another surprise. The natives play a card game, and they use regular American playing cards with kings, queens and aces. This, presumably, is one custom which was not introduced by the missionaries. The card game looked familiar to the boys, until they tried to figure what it

was all about. But that was hopeless. The British resident magistrate states that he has been in the islands for twenty-five years, and to this day he has not been able to understand the gambling game the natives play with an American deck of cards.

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The soldiers out there became so bewildered by the paradoxical customs of the natives, they decided that they themselves would be a bit paradoxical. They found the local South Sea names entirely unpronounceable, and have proceeded to rename the various places in the islands. On the east coast they baptized one point "New York." On the western side, they called a place "San Francisco". And on the southern coast there's a "New Orleans." Thus, today's dispatch is datelined "San Francisco, Trobriand Islands."

MEDITERRANEAN

25 Sep.

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The air war in the Mediterranean features a name that we heard last night - Gerbini, the big Sicilian air base. United Nations air squadrons in the past twenty-four hours have delivered four heavy blows against that center of Axis air power. All along, American and British planes have been concentrating on the Sicilian air bases, and now the investment of bombs is showing dividends - dividends in the form of a decided decrease of enemy air resistance. Today an almost complete absence of Axis air fighters was noted. Swarms of Allied planes were in Sicilian skies, but they encountered only a few enemy aircraft, and that minimized the number shot down. Today only two Axis planes were added to the record of ~~hostile~~ enemy planes ~~air~~ ~~craft~~ destroyed.

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FOOD

40 sec

There is ^{better} ~~good~~ news about ^{crops} ~~food~~ tonight - with government surveys disclosing that food production prospects have taken a remarkable turn for the better. It was only a few weeks ago that a pessimistic report was made public ~~report~~ indicating that crops this year would not be up to standard - this because of bad weather, the long cold Spring, which delayed planting. And now it appears that the conscience of the weatherman got the best of ^{him} ~~the weather~~, and he set out to repair the damage he had done. In other words, during the past several weeks, temperature and moisture conditions for crop growing have been what Washington calls - (12) "unusually favorable." Take the corn crop -- it was planted late and was threatened by an overproduction of that old enemy of the farmer - weeds. Now, however, the excellent turn of the weather has speeded up the growth of the corn and the farmers have been able to

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bring the weeds under control.

And then there's the drought that hit the southwest, which was bad for the livestock. The spell of dry weather which lasted for two months, has now been broken by rains in Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

That was for the benefit of the herds, which are unusually large. It is estimated that there are eighty million cattle on the farms of the nation. ~~These have not been going to the market at a sufficient rate, and in consequence the production of beef has been off by twenty-five per cent. But a heavier sale of cattle is expected.~~

The market in hogs is ten per cent larger than last year. And the margin of increase is expected to be still greater. Some think that the figure for this year will be twenty per cent above last year.

However, Washington points out the fact that

the greater production all along the line will be offset by the greatly increased demands of food for the armed services and for Lend-Lease. Consequently, the supplies available for civilians will be ~~considerably~~ smaller than last year.

Everywhere in the United Nations, congratulations were heaped today upon China - because this is the Sixth Anniversary of the China-Japanese War. It was just six years ago that the Japs broke loose at Peiping, and launched a huge and savage aggression against China.

Today at Chungking, United States Commander Lieutenant General Stilwell conferred a high American decoration on ~~Generalissimo~~ Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. The decoration is the Order of the Legion of Merit, and the Chinese war leader receives it in the highest degree - the degree of chief commander. The Legion of Merit is both new and old, ~~but~~ In its present form it dates back only to last year - Nineteen Forty-two. But it was established in the first instance by George Washington, the first President of the United States, in Seventeen Eighty-seven. Later, the Legion of Merit lapsed, but it was reestablished last November by

President Roosevelt. It is awarded in recognition of what is officially described as "extraordinary fidelity and essential service."

The only other holder of the Legion of Merit in the degree of chief commander is Chief of Staff General Marshall. And now - Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

RIOT

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There was a riot in San Francisco today between Chinese and Japanese. It occurred at a immigration detention camp, ~~xxx~~ where both Chinese and Japs were being kept. The Chinese had their own barracks, and above it they raised a Chinese flag - this to commemorate the Sixth Anniversary of the Jap invasion of China. Moreover, the Chinese nailed posters ~~ix~~ in front of their barracks.

This aroused the anger of the Japs. There were forty-seven Chinese who were being held on immigration charges. There were a hundred and seventy-two Japs, and they tried to storm the Chinese barracks. In a few minutes there was fighting all over the place, with the outaumbered Chinese holding off the attack. They did ~~shitty~~ well on the Sixth Anniversary of the ruthless invasion of their homeland. They fought off the Japs until guards intervened. The guards themselves had a bit

of trouble restoring order, and needed the help of a platoon of soldiers and a ~~XXXX~~ unit of San Francisco police.

This seems to be a fine piece of Japanese check in bringing the war to the California front —
2 from northern

INTRODUCTION TO MR. THOMAS

And now let's switch to Lima, Peru, where Lowell Thomas is waiting to tell us about information he has gathered on his South American flying trip.

I don't know whether ^{he}~~we~~ can get through. That depends on atmospheric conditions - but let's try.

And now, having heard from Lowell Thomas at
Lima, let's round up the rest of the news as we get
it here in New York.

LT from
Lima.

July 7, 1943.

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST

FROM LIMA, PERU

JULY 7, 1943

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

Although Lima, the Peruvian capital, is all aflutter with flags today, in honor of General Morinigo, President of Paraguay, and Peru is having a three-day celebration in honor of the Paraguayan Chief of State, I realize that's only important news in South America. I realize that you are eager for the latest news about that big Naval battle between the American fleet and the Japs in the Southwest Pacific. Also, you want to know the latest developments on the Russian front and in the Mediterranean, and in western Europe. So I am going to leave time for Ambassador Hugh Gibson to give you all the important world news. And what I have to say will only be a prologue to the much more important news

that he has for you. I wish I could hear him when he comes on. So do all the other English-speaking people in this part of the world. But since Pearl Harbor all of our regular news broadcasts in the States have been off Shortwave, and only special news-casts are beamed to South America. I'll have more to say about that when I get home -- I hope.

President Prado of Peru, met the Paraguayan President at the airport this afternoon, and there was the usual parade through miles of flag-bedecked streets, lined with the soldiers and sailors of this land of the Incas, all in battle uniform. All the military display may have had some special significance today. There is a little feeling at present between Bolivia and Peru. Some articulate Bolivians, not the LaPaz Government itself, have been demanding that Bolivia, a land-locked country, be given a seaport on the Pacific. In fact, there even was a report

that a Bolivian army might march down from the High Andes, before long, by way of the silver city of Arequipa, second city of Peru, and attempt to sieze the Peruvian port of Mollenda. But then a lot of wild rumors are flying around these days. And yesterday in Chile, I also heard that the Bolivians had been threatening to descend from the heights of the Andean plateau and try and capture the great Chilean port of Antofagasta.

All of which rumors are probably unfounded, although there are many Germans in Bolivia, many agents of Hitler who have been there for a number of years. And they now are said to be doing everything they can - which so far hasn't been much -- to stir up all the confusion possible in South America, confusion being one way of cutting down the vital materials that are now going to the United Nations from nearly every South American country - especially from Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and, of course, Brazil.

So, here in Lima this afternoon, people were saying: "If the President of Paraguay, on his way home in another two days, if he crosses Bolivia, and stops there, he can tell the Bolivians what an impressive military display he saw in Callao and Lima today.

Last night I spent at the foot of one of the most beautiful old volcanoes in the world, El Misti, in Southern Peru, at the silver city of Arequipa. Twelve years ago, during the Peruvian revolution, when Dictator Leguia was overthrown, I had a friend down here, a young American naval officer who at the time was the acting head of all Peruvian aviation. He had a little tough luck, was captured by the rebels in Arequipa, and thrown in prison. Well, last night I stayed at a place called Quinta Bates, run by an elderly American woman, who those long years ago sent blankets and mattresses to my friend in the Arequipa jail. His name was Harold B. Grow. And today he is back in the American Navy; in fact is the Naval

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Commandant at our great Naval air-training base at Pensacola, Florida.

At Arequipa I also encountered a distinguished Harvard geologist and mountaineer, William F. Jenks, whose job is to comb the Peruvian wilderness for mineral deposits, for Cerro de Pasco. In between he lectures at the University of Arequipa. Professor Jenks told me that although the Spaniards, as history tells us, in the time of Pizarro, took a huge fortune in silver and gold from Peru, that no rich deposits were ever found, either then or since; that the Spaniards handled low-grade ores that we wouldn't bother about now; and they only were able to do it because they made the people, the simple Peruvian folk of the old Inca Empire, made them slaves -- paid them nothing -- simply looted their country.

In Santiago, Chile, at the home of the Counsellor of the United States Embassy, whose wife

is the daughter of Ambassador Grew of Tokyo fame, I ran into two other American Geological experts who are doing a big job in connection with the war and the search for vital material: George Ruby, and Herbert Hoover, Jr. They had just returned from an important assignment for the Chilean Government, combing that country for possible oil deposits to take the place of the oil that they formerly but no longer get from us, because of the world shortage of shipping. In fact, they had just come up from "The Land of Fire," Terra del Fuego, near Cape Horn. And they had found what they were looking for. They had found oil for the lamps of Chile; or rather for her automobiles and ships and airplanes and furnaces. But of course, wells will have to be drilled before the final answer is known.

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fame as a Geologist and mining engineer.

The war is consuming petroleum products on an alarming scale, much of it being supplied by my Sun Oil sponsors. But shipping is the greatest problem of all. So new oil fields are badly needed. And Herbert Hoover, Jr. is finding them.

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And while we are praising one son of one of our Presidents, let's praise another President's son. At Natal, on the bulge of Brazil, I encountered a squadron of those wicked-looking, double-tailed, single-seater P-38's, bound for Africa, going over to join the Air Force Photographic Group commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Elliott Roosevelt. One pilot, Oscar Blomberg, a big Swede, so big he could hardly squeeze into his cockpit pursuit-plane, told me that young Elliott has done a great job, leading the reconnaissance Air Forces under Jimmy Doolittle, spotting the places in North Africa, the Mediterranean Islands and Italy, for our

airmen to bomb, and then going back over to get records of the actual damage.

The sons of our President, and our only living ex-President, are setting an excellent example for the rest of us.

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South American papers have just been carrying items about Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, and of the secrecy with which she has just made her way back to Chungking. Here's a sidlight on that: While staying with a certain American Army Air Force General, word came through that two of the largest planes now flying the skies of the world, planes that are the forerunners of what we all will be using before long as we go rushing around the globe, were to arrive shortly from North America. It was all exceedingly hush hush. Someone of great distinction was on board. Could it be Churchill again? Hardly -- not going in that direction. Could it be the President on his way to that long expected

rendevous with Stalin? Maybe, Anyhow, some of the officers were betting that way.

Some hours later we were awakened at the airfield barracks. At three a.m. we had breakfast on tropical fruits. And shortly after, just at dawn, in fact, we were on the field. As the sun came up out of Africa -- 'cross the ocean, an immense multi-colored plane descended from the North. The General and his staff and a detachment of our troops were at attention; waiting to see who would appear. Would it be F.D.R.? A fifteen-foot ladder of wide steps was put up to the lofty cabin of the great air liner, the door opened, and out stepped a jaunty, but weary young American ferry pilot. Said he: "Madame Chiang is asleep, And so are her maids and her secretaries and her escort. They have decided to stay aboard."

All of which was sad news to the General and his staff. They had gone to considerable trouble, making a lot of special arrangements, just in case the

the arriving dignitary should be a woman. They suspected that it might be Madame Chiang. And they had a suite of rooms all fixed up for her in what was called "The Women's Quarters," about a hundred yards from the field.

As we walked back to the mess hall, one of the staff Colonels was rather brusquely treated by an American boy on guard who had taken his orders literally. A boy from Arkansas. So the Colonel said to him: "Son, just what do you consider your duty to be?" To which the youngster, revolver in hand, replied: "Sir, my job is to keep all officers out of the native women's quarters!"

Which left the Army Air Force Colonel with nothing, absolutely nothing, to say.

And now let's hear what Hugh Gibson in New York has to tell us tonight -- let's hear the important news of the world.