

LOWELL THOMAS - June 30, 1944

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

There's a bulletin from the enemy side, which may mean something -- or it may not. The Nazi controlled radio tonight stated: "There are rumors to the effect that Allied operations already have started in the Mediterranean area of Southern France, but there is still no confirmation of any sort."

Invasion of France from the South! I am passing that along just in case; you never can tell.

~~Tonight's late invasion bulletin discloses that the Germans have been throwing strong armored reserves into the battle for Caen.~~

Today the fighting ^{in France} was a fantasy, not only of war, but of weather. A summer thunderstorm hit the battlefield with a cloudburst of rain, flames of lightning, and claps of thunder that drowned out even the roar of the artillery. Through the drenching, blinding and deafening tempest, British troops thrust forward doggedly, ^{They} and scored gains that brought them to the outer suburbs of the town of Caen, and, ^{they} ~~Montgomery's forces~~ have driven a salient, ~~to the southwest of the city,~~ which now has ~~been~~ narrowed the German escape-corridor to ten miles. And the main highways in that corridor are in the range of Allied artillery ~~placed~~ on a steep ridge.

~~The Germans continue their counterattacks~~

Great as was our ~~celebration~~^{exultation} over the capture of Cherbourg, there will be almost as great reason for triumph when Montgomery's men ~~throw~~ throw the Germans out of Caen. ~~There remains~~^{There remains} the great core of ~~the~~^{the} ~~resistance~~^{resistance} ~~in~~ⁱⁿ ~~the~~^{the} ~~Huns~~^{Huns} have the cream of their shock troops. The Allies have destroyed large numbers of tanks, but ~~the~~^{Hitler - or somebody -} continues to pour in ~~his~~ panzer divisions. The British below Caen are ~~still~~ tonight battling against the greatest concentration of number one enemy armor ever thrown against them.

GERMAN GENERAL

Berlin officially announces the death of the German Commander-in-Chief of the Invasion Front. He was Colonel-General Friederich Dollmann, a name that has not occurred prominently in the news. In fact, it was the first notice we have had that there was a General Dollmann in command ~~On~~ the Second Front. We heard about Rommel, and above him Von Rundstedt, now Dollmann. ~~It's~~ It's all a bit confusing. The truth is we have never been clear about just how the German anti-invasion command was arranged.

~~The~~ ^{But the} Berlin announcement does not say what caused the death ~~of General Dollmann,~~ ^{but a} ~~and the~~ Nazi news broadcast describes it as "sudden". ~~And~~ ^{The} assumption is he was killed ~~perhaps~~ in an Allied bombing of German Headquarters in Northern France, ^{which} ~~This happened~~ on Tuesday. ^{IP} ~~General~~ Dollmann was a tank officer who played a prominent part in the fall of France. ~~He commanded a force of German tanks that smashed through the French front in the drive that brought disaster~~

~~to the Allies.~~ And here's the irony -- Dollmann and his tank force, after the decisive break-through, raced on, and it was they who captured Cherbourg. Now -- how the tide of war has changed. Colonel General Dollmann ^{comes to his end as} ~~reaches his end as~~ Nazi Commander-in-Chief against the invasion, -- the first great event of which has been the Allied capture of Cherbourg.

PRISONERS

~~Here's a story of how,~~ In the Cherbourg campaign, somebody made a mistake. But it turned out all right - with eleven astonished Americans capturing an air base, two hundred and sixty-five Germans-and a dog. You'd think from the tone of the story that what they appreciated most was - the dog. One of those clever canines, an ~~educted~~ pooch that can do tricks - always dear to the American heart.

It all began when an order was given to Captain William Gledhill of Phillipsburg, New Jersey - who was instructed to take a look at an abandoned German flying field. Captain Gledhill is an engineering officer, and his job would be to get the deserted air[^]port into shape for American planes to use. Nothing violent or perilous about that apparently, and the Captain picked a small party to go with him - a nondescript outfit consisting of six soldiers, a navy lieutenant and three sailors. ~~and~~ Off they started in ~~a couple of~~ ^{two} jeeps.

(A couple of miles from the airport they ran into a bunch of American infantry ~~soldiers~~ ^{men} who said - that

this was the farthest point of their advance. Which sounded a little peculiar, because the order indicated that the Nazis had been driven from the flying field.)

¶ The jeeps rolled on and then came to some French peasants who said that at the field a large force of Germans held a fort in between the hangars. Which sounded still more peculiar - could there have been some mistake in the order concerning the deserted air base? Did military orders ever blunder?

Captain Gledhill couldn't believe it. So on he went with his jeeps and when they got near the field, what should greet them but a fusillade of machine gun fire. Nobody hurt, except for a few bumps and scratches as the whole party hit the dirt.

~~"I was so near to the fort," relates the Captain~~
~~"that I hurled myself on the ground next to a two~~
~~thousand gallon gasoline storage tank." And there,~~ ^{they} ~~he~~
 lay while the machine gun bullets ~~came~~ whizzing ^{ed} over ~~them~~.
 From time to time ^{the Captain} ~~he~~ shouted to the Germans, in

English, ordering them to surrender. Each yell of his

was answered with a burst of machine gun fire - until the last one. Once more he shouted - "Surrender!" And then back came a loud voice in broken English - a thick German accent. Yes, the Germans would surrender. They had seen some American tanks, apparently.

"I told them to put a white flag on a pole," relates Captain Gledhill, "and three of them came out with a flag. Pretty soon the rest appeared, straggling out by twos and threes and dozens, until there were two hundred and sixty-five heinies standing there with their hands raised." All those prisoners, - and, a dog.

The pooch was a big sturdy boxer, a handsome fellow, and the Americans looked at him with the interest of a nation of dog lovers,

A German suddenly bellowed: "Plotz!" And the dog sat up, extending his fore-paws.

The Americans were delighted, a trained dog. They promptly confiscated the pooch for a mascot. And now ⁱⁿ an American outfit near Cherbourg, you're likely to hear the command, "Plotz!" And the pooch sits up and takes notice.

ROBOTS

In London, there is an outbreak of newspaper Criticism against the censorship that conceals the Damage done by the rocket bombs. British editors are saying the suppression of information about casualties and buildings wrecked is doing no good to British morale which doesn't have to be puffed up by secrecy.

All of which coincides with the worst disaster in the fifteen day assault by the rockets. Last night one of the robots hit a nursery home where twenty-six children were being cared for. And today rescuers were digging into the ruins, seeking bodies of survivors. Thus far eight children have been brought out alive- and five adults of the nursery home staff.

ADD RUSSIA

The advance of Soviet troops over the Berezina is a historic spectacle. It was there that the Russians one hundred and thirty-two years ago devastated the grand army of Napoleon. Tonight we have news that the Red Armies are less than thirty miles from Minsk in the Northeast. To the south another Soviet column has captured a city sixty miles to the south. The Russians have outflanked Putolsk and are now in Old Poland at the northern end of the front.

Moscow reports that in the first week of that Red Army attack on Nazi formations in White Russia they have captured one hundred and eighty-four thousand two hundred and thirty Germans. The operations of the Red Divisions in that part of the line have proceeded so successfully that they are ~~now~~ about to accomplish the surrounding of ~~the~~ no fewer than twelve German divisions of what is left of them, between Berezina and the ~~the~~ Drut River East of Minsk. In short, the Red Armies are driving

the Germans back wherever they attack and helping to make things more difficult for the Nazis at every point of the compass.

Albany. And what a scene there will be at the capital of New York State when he and his party arrive there tomorrow certain, shortly before noon. With him are Mrs. Dewey, Herbert Brownell, the new chairman of the Republican National Committee, Dewey's personal staff, and thirty-five newspapermen--count them, thirty-five. That's one of the penalties you have to pay as candidate for President. You have never less than twenty or thirty newspaper reporters around you.

LEAD DEWEY

At this moment Governor Dewey is on a special train bound for Albany. And what a scene there will be at the capital of New York State when he and his party arrive there tomorrow morning shortly before noon. With him are Mrs. Dewey, Herbert Brownell, the new chairman of the Republican National Committee, Dewey's personal staff, and thirty-five newspapermen--count them, thirty-five. That's one of the penalties you have to pay as candidate for President. You have never less than twenty or thirty newspaper reporters around you.

DEWEY_CHANCES

As I prophesied on Monday, Herbert Brownell of N. Y. has been made National Chairman of the G.O.P. and what kind of a time will he have electing his man?

While chatting with former Presidential Candidate Alf Landon the day after the convention, the Kansas political leader, who is still quite active in national political affairs, made the observation that Dewey and Bricker can be elected if they can win two states, New York and Pennsylvania. Landon, who has the reputation of being an exceedingly astute man, made the further remark that a candidate can be elected even if he loses one of the two, New York or Pennsylvania, but he can't be elected if he loses them both.

Well, on the train, a group of us who were returning from the convention got to discussing that ever interesting topic of the electoral votes. Here's the way one member of the party added them up, much to his own satisfaction: Said he: Let's assume that Dewey can count on the eighty-two electoral votes

votes of the ten states that went Republican in Nineteen Forty: Colorado, six; Indiana, fourteen; Iowa, eleven; Kansas, nine; Maine, five; Michigan, nineteen; Nebraska, seven; North Dakota, four; South Dakota, four; Vermont, three. The, if Dewey carries New York with its forty-seven votes; Massachusetts with seventeen; Connecticut with eight; New Jersey with sixteen that will give him added eighty-eight votes in the New England and ~~Atlantic~~ Atlantic Coast states.

Now with the added influence of Governor Bricker's Midwest Popularity, if he carries Ohio with its twenty-six votes, and the adjacent states of Pennsylvania with thirty-six; West Virginia with eight; and nearby Wisconsin with twelve he'll add seventy-four votes more making two hundred and forty four altogether. As two hundred and sixty-six are needed, California's twenty-two votes alone would be sufficient to carry the election.

But even without California, Dewey could win if instead he should pick up twenty-two, such as

four from New Hampshire, three from Dealware, eleven from Kentucky and four from Montana.

That's the way the Republicans were talking on their way home from the convention. They are convinced that Dewey and Bricker have a good chance. Maybe so, Maybe so. All I know for certain is that it's time to turn my gavel over to you Hugh.

SAIPAN

L.J.-Standard
Sunoco. Friday, June 30, 1944.

Our losses on Saipan are announced - nine thousand, seven hundred and fifty-two to date. Marines and army troops have lost that many in killed, wounded and missing. Fourteen hundred killed, seventy-four hundred wounded, eight hundred and eighty-seven missing. These casualties during the brief campaign on Saipan are an indication of the violence of the fighting there, and today's news presents the same picture - American advances ~~as~~ against bitter resistance.

The focus of the action is at the pocket we mentioned yesterday - "Hell's pocket," they are calling it. This is described as a vast scoop in the surface of the earth, like an immense pit fifteen yards long and five hundred yards wide. And there the Americans are battling against an ~~invisible~~ invisible enemy. No sign of Japs, except the roar of mortars and machine guns, the explosions of shells and ripping ^f bullets. The Japs are

hidden in caves, that line the sides of Hell's Pocket -
an invisible enemy.

KURILES

The word from the north Pacific is action in a fog - ~~with~~ ^{with} a powerful United States task force ^{bombarding} ~~bombarded~~ the Japs in the Kuriles. The guns of warships raked ~~the~~ ^{a big} ~~foremost~~ enemy base at the southern tip of Paramushiro Island. The cannonading lasted for thirty minutes, and five thousand shells fired at targets ^{masked} ~~masked~~ by the fog.

KOREA

The Japs appear to be up to some more tricks - this time in Korea. That quaint land of the Far East has been under Jap domination for a long time - ever since the days following the Russo-Japanese War at the beginning of this century. The Koreans have never resigned themselves to the Japanese yoke, and in the present war increased their agitation for freedom. The Korean underground is operating with sabotage and attacks against the Japs. So now the Tokyo tricksters figure they've got to do something about it - and they are making the Koreans an offer.

The word in Washington is that the Japs are saying that they are willing to restore the old Korean monarchy - give the Koreans an emperor, a sovereign such as they had in the ~~old~~ days when the country was called the "hermit kingdom." Theoretically, Korea would become independent, but in reality the

Korean emperor would become just another puppet. In this the Japanese are following the precedent of what they did in Manchuria - when they set up a puppet state with a stooge emperor. For that job they resurrected the peculiar individual named Henry Pu-Yei, who had been, in fact, the boy emperor of China, the last of the Manchu dynasty, and ousted by the Chinese revolution. For Korea the Japs ^{have} picked on a member of the old royal house of that country - the one time Crown Prince, ~~heir to the throne whom the Japs themselves overthrew.~~ ^{He} is Prince Yi Emm who, some years ago, was forced to marry a Japanese Princess. ~~That is,~~ The Japs were ~~gunningly~~ keeping ~~Prince Yi Emm,~~ the former Crown Prince of Korea, in reserve for some situation that might arise. And now, we are told, the war has brought about the situation - in which the Japs are trying to ~~xxx~~ pacify the Koreans by offering to restore their old monarchy - their former Crown Prince Yi Emm to become a puppet Emperor.

DENMARK

Copenhagen, capital of Denmark is paralyzed tonight by a general strike. The Danes have revolted against the Nazi suppressors and have hamstrung the Germans in Denmark. The inhabitants of the Danish capital have stopped all transportation, and cut off water and electrical power. They have even succeeded in stopping air service.

All this happens at a timely moment for the fortunes of the United Nations. The Germans have been obliged to withdraw ~~xxxxxxx~~ troops from Denmark since the invasion of Normandy.

One dispatch goes to the length of reporting that the Germans have only four thousand troops to cope with the Danes, plus fifteen hundred of the Gestapo.

Now, Hugh, it's your turn for a moment.