

HUGH GIBSON - SUNOCO. THURS.. JULY 8. 1943.

6
GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight we are promised another six minutes by Lowell Thomas, broadcasting from Balboa in the Canal Zone, the place with the ^{One of} most romantic names in history. I shall be anxious to hear what fresh colorful ~~impressions~~ ^{impressions} he has picked up since we heard him from Lima last night. He will surely broadcast, if the heavens permit, and if there is one field ~~nowhere else~~ in which you need the permission of the heavens, it is in short wave broadcasting. Meanwhile, here is a ~~quick~~ ^{Summary} ~~shot~~ of the news of the world.

First and most thrilling of all, Our Marines and Infantrymen are within six miles of the Jap air base at Munda. Evidently, this is a fresh division of shock troops just landed at new bridgeheads on the coast

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of that New Georgia island. These landings took the Japs by surprise, according to ~~the~~ accounts from Allied headquarters in the southwest Pacific. Our fighting battalions are now on both sides of the Jap installations at Munda, which are already pretty well shattered to bits by bombing raids.

So much for the story of the land engagements. We also learn tonight that in the battle of Kula Gulf, in which the Japs tried to ^{break} ~~break~~ up our invasion, every single enemy warship in the ~~squadron~~ ^{squadron} was either damaged or destroyed. Admiral Halsey's headquarters received reports that at one phase of the battle, our men could definitely see five of the Mikado's men-o-war blowing up in flames or sinking. And that was only a few minutes after the Americans had joined battle.

The latest word from the South Pacific is that our fleet definitely destroyed eight Jap war vessels,

and damaged two others. However, the two that were damaged may have escaped, and limped away to safety.

Admiral
That's the news from Halsey's headquarters.

*as
ref here*
~~From General Douglas MacArthur's, the XXXX main report is that we sank nine Jap ships and possibly two others. But the Halsey report is more conservative.~~

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The first phase of the engagement began about three o'clock Tuesday morning. Our lookouts caught sight of the enemy ships heading in from Kula Gulf at the northwestern end of New Georgia. Our fleet engaged them immediately, and it was in that first phase, and a very few minutes of it, that five Jap destroyers were seen to be sinking or burning.

The second phase of the battle began later. This time the masthead reported three or four enemy vessels, either light cruisers or large destroyers.

Again, it took only a short period ~~of~~ to disperse them.

SUBMARINES

And here is a Navy bulletin from Washington,
a bulletin about our submarines in the Pacific. They
have sunk ten more enemy ships, and damaged four more.
The Navy adds that these actions have not been announced
in any previous communiques from the Navy Department.

Among the ten ships that our pig boats destroyed
were two Jap transports, one large, one medium sized.
They also bagged two medium sized cargo vessels, one
large tanker, one medium sized tanker, one large cargo
vessel, and so forth.

MEDITERRANEAN

The news from the Mediterranean continues to be the same. In fact, you could hardly call it news. It is a repetition of previous days - round-the-clock bombings of the Sicilian airdromes. Allied pilots are reporting that enemy opposition is growing less. For instance, yesterday they sighted only a score or so of German and Italian fighters, of which the Allied airmen shot down ten.

Flying Fortresses, ~~xxx~~ Billy Mitchells and ~~xxx~~ Marauders, kept up one constant attack on the five airfields concentrated around Gerbini in the eastern part of the island. There have been no fewer than twenty-three raids in two days in that one area.

The Italian high command has tacitly admitted that the anti-aircraft defenses in Sicily have weakened. The explanation is that these constant bombings by the Royal Air Force and the United States air force has made the Sicilian airfield literally unuseable.

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RUSSIA

On the Russian front, the propaganda battle between Moscow and Berlin is almost as keen as the fighting between the Red and Nazi armies. According to Berlin, the Soviets lost more than four hundred tanks in the battle around Belgorod and south of Orel

The ~~But~~ Moscow spokesman quotes no figures but declares that it was the Germans who lost colossal amounts of equipment. The Germans are boasting that they have a new type of tank in action, heavier even than the gigantic Tiger Mark Six models. If they go on this way, the battles of the future will be between rival forces composed literally of land battleships.

Berlin says the Red army has been badly staggered and its lines penetrated in several places. It also claims to have destroyed a hundred and ninety-three Russian planes at a cost of only thirteen Germans.

The keynote of the Moscow communique is that the

51 Red army is holding tight. Although the Germans have made a few local gains, the Soviet line is intact, in what is called the Battle of Kursk.

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PLANES

The War Production Board has a surprise in store for the enemy. Our factories are making new types of planes, very hush-hush, ^{They are} fighter planes vastly better than any that have been turned out before, take it from Charles E. Wilson, Vice-Chairman of the War Production Board. Naturally, he was unable to tell us any details about them. Some of them are completely new types, others are modifications of plane models already in use.

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NELSON FOLLOW PLANES

52 And now we have a report from ~~the head of the~~
~~man~~ Chairman Donald Nelson himself. He told it to
the Canadian Club in Toronto. By Nineteen Forty-four,
the Allies may be turning out more than four times as
much materiel of war as the Axis powers. Every four and
two-thirds minutes of every day of the month, a warplane
will be completed before this year has run out. Since
the war began, the United States and Canada ^{have} ~~has~~ built
a hundred and fifteen thousand planes, more than
a hundred and seventy-five thousand large calibre guns,
nearly sixty thousand tanks, twenty million dead weight
tens of ocean going merchant ships. Those are only a few
items in the list. 12✓

CONGRESS

President Roosevelt won another victory in Congress today. The Senate dropped all opposition to his program of subsidies to roll back prices.

The House gave in two weeks ago, but many Senators continued to fight. The result was a deadlock between the upper and ~~the~~ lower Houses of Congress. Today there was a close vote in the Senate, as a result of which the upper chamber backs down and has dropped the amendment to forbid subsidies. The actual figures of the vote were thirty-four to thirty-three.

The farm organizations fought to the last ditch. The Secretary of the Cooperative Milk Producers Association told the lawmakers that it would cost seven hundred million dollars in subsidies to carry out President Roosevelt's program for dairy farmers alone. And he added that this would last for a short time only.

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CORN FOLLOW CONGRESS

Another move against the Administration failed today. A Senate resolution on corn was up before the Agriculture Committee of the House. The Senators wanted to jump the ceiling price on ~~the~~ corn from a dollar and seven cents to a dollar and forty cents a bushel. But the House committee would have none of it, tabled the measure. But before that happened, the Congressmen heard something interesting. A couple of weeks ago at Columbus, Ohio, Governor Dewey of New York told forty-four other governors that New York dairy and poultry farmers were threatened with a complete lack of feed grain. The New York Emergency Food Commission was negotiating for the importation of grain from Canada and trying to obtain the means of transportation from Washington. Today, Marvin Jones, Federal Food Administrator, told the Congressmen that the national government is now making arrangements to import some twelve or thirteen million bushels of various grains from the north.

DAM

Maybe you recall those two German dams which the Royal Air Force blew up with such effect last May. Today comes a story out of Stockholm, telling the details about one of them. An uncensored letter leaked through into Sweden, and the writer, who was on the spot, said that this one dam ~~was destroyed~~ was hit by three mine bombs. They blew enormous holes and let all the water out of the lake in twenty minutes. At least three thousand people perished including some Russian prisoners in a camp. Five whole German towns were wiped out. Among them was an important industrial town in Westphalia, seven miles from the dam. Not one brick is left standing on another in that place.

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STRIKES

Out in Utah, fifty-seven railroad ^{conductors} ~~workers~~ and ^{have} brakemen struck. You would not say that was a large strike, but they have tied up ^{almost thirty} ~~twenty~~ per cent of the country's copper production. They are men who work a small branch line, ~~the Bingham Canyon branch~~, which takes the copper from ^a ~~the~~ mine up in ^a ~~the~~ canyon, down to the smelters. While they're striking, a train of fifty cars filled with copper ore stands on a side track.

They have a peculiar complaint. They want to be rated as railroad men instead of as employees of the mining company. As railroad men they would be entitled to the Federal ~~Rxxx~~ Railroad Pension System. As miners they are just miners.

~~In Pennsylvania, twelve thousand soft coal miners are still out. They are not only striking but causing a lot of trouble, picketing mines and turning back other miners who want to go to work.~~

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FRANCO

An English correspondent in Spain has cabled his paper that the Axis-powers are losing their influence in ~~the~~ ^{the} peninsula. He attributes it to the recent successes of the Allies in the Mediterranean and other theatres of war. To prove his point, he shows that Spanish newspapers which have been very tame under Franco hitherto, are showing quite a bit of independence. So too are some of the Spanish political parties.

All of this makes it very interesting to learn that ~~Francisco~~ ^{General} Franco is going to make an important speech to the Cortez, the Spanish Parliament, ~~what is~~ ~~1.21.21~~, next week. The official notice declared that it would be an announcement of grave importance.

DISEASE

The Surgeon General of the United States Army gave out a welcome piece of news today. In most wars, more soldiers are killed by disease than by the bullets of the enemy. But now medical science in general and the skill of the army medical corps in particular, has increased prodigiously. In fact, it has improved so much that there are fewer casualties in the American Army of today than in any other army in history. Major General Kirk, the Surgeon General, says that this is partly due to excellent surgery, partly to the extraordinary development of the ~~amphioxixngxx~~ sulfa drugs. ~~about the lack of trench warfare, which~~
~~has been very terrible things.~~

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FISH

In spite of the war, as many pounds of fish are being caught this year as last year. The news comes from- guess who? Harold Ickes. That's another of the little wartime duties he has to attend to, coordinating fish. The Food Administration announced early this year that we needed six billion pounds of ~~the~~ sea food. But between announcing it and catching it, there's a margin. The fishing industry will not be able to produce that much. But at least it will equal or ^{perhaps} ~~maybe~~ even reach a bit above last year's mark.

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FLOOD

~~The~~ High water from Lake Erie becomes ever more threatening in the neighborhood of Toledo, Ohio.

This, owing to the collapse of a six hundred foot section of the dike along the lake shore front.

More than twenty-five hundred acres were flooded yesterday, and twenty-five ~~mm~~ hundred more are now in danger.

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JAIL

8 The young ^{man} who bought a jail for a dollar and a half has had plenty of opportunities to sell it. An ice-man offered him eighty dollars; he wanted to turn it into an icehouse. But sixteen year old Robert Pinkley, the fellow who bought it, continues to sit tight. Meanwhile, the City Fathers of Harvard, Nebraska, where this happened, are in a constant state of blusing.

Most embarrassed of all is the city attorney. While that lot was being auctioned off for taxes, young Pinckley reminded the city attorney that the jail was located on it. To which the city attorney replied, "Don't bother us. Keep still or bid." So he did, and there is much merriment throughout the State of Nebraska.

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