

LT Sunoco - May 16, 1945
Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews

Wednesday.

(LT En Route to Pacific)

GOOD EVENING, Everybody:

Although Lowell Thomas returned only a few days ago from his visit to the various fronts in Europe, he is off again. Evidently he got up so much momentum that he just couldn't stop. At any rate, he's on his way tonight, this time flying around the world. Nearly every night we hope to have him on the air for part of the broadcast; and I'll be filling in the rest of the time. Tomorrow evening Lowell expects to be on from a city, on another continent, after spanning the ocean.

I'll not try to tell you where he is going to be tomorrow, because here at Radio City we are not sure. However, we do know that he is on his way to gather background material on the Pacific war -- taking a quick look so that he will be better qualified to analyze the news as it comes in from the remaining half of this vast global struggle. Getting through by short wave

from the islands of the Pacific and from the mainland of Asia, may be more difficult than it was from Europe.

But, broadcasting facilities out that way are improving, and he is going to try and get through each night.

In the meantime, here are the highlights of the war against Japan:-

One of the bitterest fights of the war in the Pacific has been fought on Okinawa, not far from the Japanese stronghold at Shuri. The marines, driving for high ground, northwest of Shuri, were assailed by a vicious Japanese counter-attack, and were forced back for three hundred yards. ~~by the furious assault.~~ The situation for a while was so critical that, says tonight's dispatch, butchers, bakers and cooks joined the battling leathernecks in the struggle to halt the attack. The attack was halted, and the drive on Shuri was resumed. ~~the marines pushing down the slopes of the summit called, Chocolate Drop Hill, which they captured at the point of the bayonet after five days of fighting~~

At nearby Naha, American troops have thrust into the western edge of what once was a town - and is now a mass of ruins. ~~They laid siege to a town called Yabaru, which is described as an anchor of the Japanese line of defense.~~ One report is that Naha has been captured, but

this is not confirmed.

I have a clear recollection of Naha - the way it was when I was there years ago, ~~though the Japs for a long time kept foreigners out of these parts.~~ Naha was the capital of the old Shuri kings, who ruled the Ryukyu Islands before the Japs took possession, and the principal landmark was the old Shuri Palace - now a mass of rubble, no doubt. It was a picturesque old place, and I remember that my attention was taken by the moss that covered it. More to the point is the memory of the terrain of ~~southern~~ Okinawa. It is far different from barren and volcanic Iwo Jima, which gave the marines so much trouble. ~~Southern~~ Okinawa has hills and crags, but it has vegetation and fertile spaces of open ground.

A new giant assault by the B-29s, which today assailed the great Japanese industrial section of Nagoya! Superfortresses hurled a ~~large~~ ^{huge} weight of fire bombs on Nagoya, ~~tearing~~ ^{turning} sixteen square miles of factory section into a sea of flame. This was the second devastating attack on Japan's largest city in three days,

TRIESTE

6

Today a good deal of the limelight of the news was on one of the important harbors of Europe - Trieste, ~~xxxxi~~ which is in dispute between the Western Allies and the Yugoslav government of Marshal Tito. British cruisers and destroyers arrived at Trieste today, proceeding under the protection of a fleet of American heavy bombers. And Sherman tanks, ~~man~~ manned by New Zealanders, patrolled the dock section of the city.

~~Other parts of Trieste are under the control of~~
Marshal Tito's forces - and they ironically, are patrolling with British made tanks - armor given to them by the British.

The ~~Washington and London~~ Washington and London governments have protested to Tito, because of the Yugoslav push into the city, which was turned over to the Allies by surrendering German armies. And Tito has granted to the British enough dock space to unload cargoes of supplies

Prime Minister Churchill stated in the House of Commons today that Germany is to be administered by Germans - under strict Allied control. "We have," said Churchill, "no intention of undertaking the burden of administering Germany ourselves."

At the same time, at Allied headquarters it was stated that Admiral Doenitz, who succeeded Hitler, is being used temporarily. Doenitz, ~~together with~~ ^{and} other German officials selected by the Allied command, ~~are~~ ^{are} being employed to direct the disarmament of surrendered German forces.

Will Doenitz be considered a war criminal? That question is not yet answered. The Doenitz case would presumably be included in the scope of a statement made at the White House today. New Presidential Secretary Charles G. Ross declared that the war criminal question, as it pertains to officers of the German general staff, will be decided by the four Allied prosecuting attorneys.

~~The American prosecutor, named by President Truman, is Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, who will participate in prosecutions before an international tribunal. The list of those to be tried will be determined by the prosecutors - according to the White House statement today. The presidential secretary pointed out that it was agreed at the Yalta Conference to break up the German general staff. He pointed out, however, that the term "break up" did not necessarily mean the prosecution and trial for war crimes.~~

In England, the outcry against the coddling of high Nazis grew louder today, with the disclosure of the treatment that is being given Willie Messerschmitt, who designed some of Germany's most formidable fighting planes. Messerschmitt is in London now and is described as ~~ixix~~ "living in luxury." The British authorities explain that he is being treated so well because he is working with

9

British and American Intelligence officers and disclosing the secrets of German aircraft experiments - giving to the Allied officers much valuable data, especially about the workings of the German jet propelled fighter plane.

The bomb explosion touched off by the conspiracy of the general; the plot to kill Hitler, over the last weeks and into peace. Both disclosures are passed along by Gen. Fletcher, commander of the 1st Army, who has been going to Washington for public affairs of the 1st Army and is now in Washington. The information and reports are expert work by an excellent source of information.

The chief engineer who survived the bomb explosion tells how on July 20th of last year, Hitler, at his military headquarters in East Prussia, convened a military conference shortly after noon. At the time, a group of officers was present including Gen. Hans Oster, chief of the High Command, and Colonel Geyr von Schweppenburg. The only one who apparently survived the explosion was Gen. Oster, who was wounded. The other officers were killed.

Last night Lowell Thomas related an account by a Hitler stenographer who took down the proceedings during the final Nazi conferences in Berlin. Tonight we have a story from another Hitler stenographer who survived in the bomb explosion touched off by the conspiracy of the generals; the plot to kill Hitler, overthrow the Nazi regime and make peace. Both disclosures are passed along by Jack Fleischer ~~the~~ correspondent of the United Press. ~~He~~ has been going to stenographers for inside stories of Nazi transactions - and, as we all know, the shorthand and typewriter expert can be an excellent source of information.

The stenographer who survived the bomb explosion tells how on July twentieth of last year, Hitler, at his military headquarters in East Prussia, convened a military conference shortly after noon, twelve thirty. A crowd of officers was present including Field Marshal Keitel, chief of the high command, and Colonel General Jodl - the same Jodl, apparently, who was eventually to sign the surrender of Nazi Germany. They gathered around a large

oblong table, covered with a great map.

Military reports were discussed - and then, after about five minutes, a colonel entered, whom Field Marshal Keitel, introduced as Colonel Count Klaus von Stauffenberg.

If you think back you may remember the name of Colonel Count Klaus von Stauffenberg. He was among those executed in the conspiracy of the generals - as the officer who placed the bomb intended to kill Hitler.

The stenographer who covered the staff meeting relates that Count von Stauffenberg carried a brief case, and this he placed under the conference table, leaning it against one end-support of the table. That was near Hitler - at the right place to blow der Fuehrer to ~~his~~ kingdom come.

A couple of minutes later says the stenographer, Count von Stauffenberg was called to the telephone outside and left the room. This was not noticed at the time, but later it was disclosed that the call had been put in by another officer at Hitler's headquarters - for the purpose

of getting Count von Stauffenberg out of the room at the time of the explosion.

Then came the turn of chance, a mere twist of circumstance that was to affect the history of the global war.

The stenographer relates ~~how~~ ^{that} the brief case under the conference table got in the way of one Colonel Brandt, who was passing out military reports. So that officer moved it. He took the brief case from under the table, and set it down a few feet away - just far enough to cause the bomb inside to miss its main purpose.

"About twelve forty-five," relates the stenographer, "there was an explosion like a thunderclap. There was a yellow sheet of flame. Smoke filled the room. Parts of the wall," he goes on, "were blown out and the end of the table at Hitler's right was ~~blown out~~ ^{destroyed}."

For some moments after the explosion, there was a stunned silence, then the stenographer heard Field Marshal Keitel, asking: "Where is der Fuehrer?"

There was no reply, and the stenographer wasn't waiting to hear anything more. "I myself climbed out of a window," he relates. "I ran around to the front of the building, and saw Hitler walking to his underground air raid shelter."

The Nazi dictator had got out of his blown up headquarters through a door. Later Hitler said that he at first thought of diving out through a window, but was afraid. He thought that somebody might have thrown the bomb through a window, and might be waiting outside. It would appear also, from the fact that he was going to his air raid shelter, that he thought it might have been an Allied air bomb. In fact, it took the Nazi Gestapo some little while to find out the secret of the explosion. At first they believed the bomb had been placed under the floor of Hitler's headquarters, until they found that the floor had been blasted downward.

The stenographer says that Hitler's face was blackened by smoke. His hair was singed, and had a yellowish color. His right arm was injured severely.

His trousers from the knees down were burned and torn, the skin of his legs was burned. His hearing was affected. His left ear drum was so badly damaged that he never recovered his sense of hearing completely.

Among the others, some were killed, ~~some~~ injured fatally, others only slightly. Hitler was able to keep going ^{at least} well enough to answer some Berlin telephone calls to prove that he was still alive, and thereby crush the conspiracy of the generals, as they tried to seize power in Berlin. Also - he was able to meet Mussolini that day - for his last conference with the fallen Italian Duce.

The whole story, as disclosed today by the Hitler stenographer, is ~~a splendid~~ ^{a splendid} illustration of how great things may hinge on some tiny action - and how the Nazi tyrant escaped death, and the war was prolonged and ~~unnumbered~~ ^{unnumbered} lives were lost, because a brief case under a table got in the way of a Colonel.

Another disclosure by Hitler's stenographer tells of the Nazi Fuehrer's reaction to the death of President Roosevelt - a wild maniacal laugh. The scene was in the underground Nazi headquarters in Berlin. A military conference had just been held, and Hitler had his glasses on and was reading something, when an official of the Nazi Press Department burst into the room without knocking. "This," says the stenographer, "was highly irregular." The excited propaganda official waved a news sheet and yelled: "I have a very important report - Roosevelt is dead." The stenographer tells how Hitler took the report, read it, and threw up his arms in an outbreak of crazy mirth.

"He laughed and he laughed," relates the stenographer. "It was a hideous laugh, like a devil's laugh. There was something unnatural about it."

Then Hitler yelled: "I knew it, I knew it".

He kept repeating that, says the stenographer, laughing

all the time - and giving the impression that he knew that something would happen to his world antagonist, the President of the United States.

High officers came crowding. "And," says the stenographer, "Hitler immediately began a political speech." He shouted that President Roosevelt's death would mean ~~an~~ an important change in the course of the war, a split between the Allies. "While he was talking," the stenographer continues, "he frequently laughed that same evil laugh." So there you have the answer to one of the questions often asked at the time of President Roosevelt's death - How ~~the~~ ^{would} the news affect the Nazis? Well, Hitler thought it would change the course of the war - and how badly he was fooled.

Still ~~xxx~~ another stenographic disclosure on this day of revelations from shorthand and typewriter men, is that Japan tried to get the submarine fleet of Nazi Germany. We are told that, as the Nazi collapse

became inevitable, the Japanese Ambassador to Berlin appealed to Hitler and to Admiral Doenitz, asking them to send Germany's force of U-boats to Japan - for use against the American navy in the Pacific war. But Hitler and Doenitz refused, saying that Germany would fight to the end with all of its forces, U-boats included.

X An ironical commentary on that is the continued news of the surrender of German submarines, as the U-boat fleet obeys the order of capitulation. Today's word tells of the surrender of the first German cargo carrying submarine engaged in running materials to and from Japan.

X The U-532, one of the biggest of undersea craft, kept a surrender rendezvous with the British in mid-Atlantic today. It was loaded with Japanese tin, rare metals, rubber and quinine. The U-532, carrying strategic materials of war to Germany, had been operating in conjunction with other German submarines based on Japan.

Meeting ~~Meeting~~ in the Indian Ocean ^{and} ~~is~~ transferring cargoes.

And here is the latest - an announcement from Washington that ^{still} another big German submarine, on its way to Japan, surrendered to American warships on Sunday. Aboard were three high German generals and two dead Japanese. The Japs, who were trying to get back to their native country, had committed hari-kari.

Along with this the news is given out that only three weeks before the German surrender, a powerful wolf pack of U-boats was discovered in the North Atlantic. It was ~~smashed~~ smashed heavily by one of the most powerful forces of carriers and destroyer-escorts ever to operate against the undersea menace.

And now Hugh James