

LEAD

C.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, May 30, 1945.

(Given by Dr. R.C. Andrews.
C.J. in Pacific war area.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

We have news about Lowell Thomas tonight - word that amplifies what we heard yesterday. He'll be at Chungking tomorrow and Friday, and is scheduled to come in on this program on those two days.

Chungking, in the deep interior of China, is a long distance away, and several times Lowell has failed to get through to us - as he flies around the world to visit air bases in Asia, and in the war zones of the Pacific. However, the chances look good that he'll get through on this program tomorrow and Friday. And we'll ~~hear something of what he has been doing and~~ ~~observing,~~ since the last time we had him on - broadcasting from India, - New Delhi.

OKINAWA

On Okinawa, the central Jap stronghold of Shuri is almost encircled. Following the seizure of Naha, the Okinawan capital, ~~Shuri~~ Shuri dominates the limelight of war. Troops of the United States Tenth Army have driven around both sides of the fortress, and at last reports were within three thousand yards of a junction that will encircle Shuri.

Dispatches from the front describe Shuri castle as a mere ~~heap~~^{heap} of rubble. That massive structure, turned into a Japanese fort, was bombarded for days by all the high explosive that ^{the} Americans could rain upon ~~island~~^{island}-artillery collaborating with warships and bombing planes. Now Shuri castle is just a slanting pile of shattered stone which seems to blend with the rocky hill on which it stood.

Indications continue that the Japs have pulled most of their forces to a new line farther south, and that the town of Shuri is defended by a rear guard of suicide troops.

NAVY

The critical character of the conflict for Okinawa was illustrated vividly today when Secretary of the Navy Forrestal issued an emergency call for fifteen thousand skilled workers. They're needed to repair damaged warships on the Pacific Coast.

The battle for Okinawa is being decided, not only on the island itself, but to an even greater extent - at sea. If the Japs are able to cripple the fleet out there, they'll cut the communications of our soldiers fighting on the island - and will win the battle for Okinawa. They are trying desperately to cripple the fleet - trying by the use of air power, suicide air power. And the Jap suicide planes are doing damage - an amount of damage of which today's Navy appeal gives a hint.

So many American warships have returned to the Pacific Coast for repairs, that there is a desperate shortage of workers. One graphic instance of this is seen in the story of the aircraft carrier Franklin, the "hero ship" that survived such terrifying havoc.

The fearfully damaged Franklin had to go all the way to New York for repairs, make^{ing} an extra trip of several thousand miles. ^{Thing} Because the jam of ships awaiting repairs on the Pacific Coast was so great that the Franklin could not be accommodated.

Secretary Forrestal pointed out today that it will take nine months to repair the Franklin and get her back into action. It takes from four to six months to repair cruisers that are badly hit, and three months to fix up destroyers.

As an example of what American warships are up against off Okinawa, he cited the case of two destroyers, the Hadley and the Evans. On May eleventh, they were assailed by a hundred and fifty Japanese planes and were under continuous attack by suicide Japs for ninety minutes. The Hadley shot down twenty-three; the Evans eleven - but both were hit and severely damaged.

The Secretary of the Navy stated that new losses will soon be announced - warships sunk by suicide planes. Such information is being withheld, so that the

Japs may be kept ignorant of the effectiveness of the suicide attacks and of the number and types of American warships operating against them.

The appeal for fifteen thousand skilled workers to repair damaged warships on the Pacific Coast has a meaning, not only for skilled labor, but also for everyone else. It takes money, millions, to get our crippled warships back into the fight, and we've got to provide that money - by buying bonds. As it happens, the Seventh War Loan comes at a time of crisis in the battle for Okinawa. That is - at a time when the war against Japan calls for the pouring of new millions into the repair of the warships. At home our part in this is simple and clear - buy bonds.

The Japs understand perfectly well the importance of what is going on out there. We have today one of the most significant statements that has yet emanated from Tokyo. The Japanese radio repeats with the utmost emphasis that the battle of Okinawa is the decisive battle of the Pacific War.

The Tokyo radio quotes the Japanese Prime Minister, Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki, who made a statement of the greatest importance, to the Imperial Japanese cabinet: He declared: "Our hopes and determination to win this war are anchored solely in the fighting situation on Okinawa. The battle of Okinawa, is the deciding battle of this war. The fate of the nation of Japan and its peoples depends on the outcome at Okinawa - which is rapidly reaching a climax".

Japan reports that most of Yokohama lies in ruins. After yesterday's great fire-attack by B-29s, sixty thousand houses were destroyed by the tempest of flames. Two hundred and fifty thousand persons are homeless.

On the American side, the B-29 command is waiting for reconnaissance photographs of Yokohama to determine whether that great seaport has been as thoroughly destroyed as ^{was} Tokyo ~~was~~ - after the last two great raids against the Japanese capital.

You may be surprised to hear me say that I was particularly glad Emperor Hirohito had not been killed in the recent bombing of Tokyo when some of his palaces were destroyed. This is not because I have any love for the gentleman in question but because of the disastrous results to us which would follow his death by bombing. In the first place, ~~where~~ were he killed the religious fanaticism of the Japanese would be fanned to a white heat. But more important still is that he is the only one who could accept terms of unconditional

surrender without "losing face" with the Japanese people. He stands as a God-Emperor. While he is a puppet so far as political power is concerned, nevertheless, the party in control, governs in his name. At the present time and for many years, the Army has been in the saddle. The great industrialists who built up Japan as a world power in trade, are a strong minority. Conceivably they may soon get control of the government since the Army has failed. Some recent occurrences indicate that probability. Seeing what has happened to Germany, they must realize that their fate is inevitable. Rather than lose everything they may ask the Emperor to accept unconditional surrender. It might cost us many American lives were he killed by a bomb.

SYRIA

The crisis in Syria has grown rapidly worse. Fighting is widespread in the ancient land - the French bombarding Damascus with cannon, mortars and air bombs. Late news indicates that French troops have captured the Parliament building in Damascus, after shooting its door open with a shell from a seventy-five millimeter gun. French planes have assailed other places in Syria, and we hear that one was shot down - a military plane hit by Syrian policemen who blazed away with rifles.

Today in the London House of Commons, Foreign Secretary Eden made a statement on the subject of the revolt of the people of Syria and ~~the~~ Lebanon against the French. The situation ~~is~~ has, in the words of the Foreign Secretary - "greatly deteriorated". And Eden added that the London Cabinet is considering what action to take.

There was a suggestion in Parliament that President Truman intervene and try to mediate the quarrel

between the French on one hand and Syria and Lebanon on the other. This proposal was made by Major William Astor, who demanded: "What does the San Francisco Conference mean, if immediately there are two members of the United Nations shooting at each other? What does the Atlantic Charter mean if this dispute is to continue?"

The Foreign Secretary said that the British Cabinet has begun consultations with the United States on what to do about the flare-up of war in Syria.

BIG THREE

Moscow announces that an Allied Control Commission to govern Germany will be established in a few days. It will be a four power affair - the United States, Great Britain, Soviet Russia and France.

There has been a good deal of discussion because until now, there has been a failure to set up a control commission for Germany, as was provided at the Yalta Conference. Now, however, that omission has been rectified - so says Moscow. On the commission Soviet Marshal Zhukov will represent Russia, General Eisenhower the United States, and Field Marshal Montgomery Great Britain.

Along with the Moscow announcement we have word from London that President Truman's special Envoy Joseph E. Davies, is flying to American headquarters at Frankfurt for a series of conferences with General Eisenhower.

BORNHOLM ISLAND

London gives us an explanation of what happened in the case of the Danish island of Bornholm - which has been occupied by Russian troops, although it was expected to come within the province of the western Allies.

Today Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the House of Commons that the Soviets occupied Bornholm after rejecting a proposal by General Eisenhower. The Supreme Commander of the Western Allies informed the Soviet High Command that he intended to send a detachment of his troops to Bornholm to accept the surrender of the German garrison there. Eisenhower asked if this would conflict with Soviet plans.

The Russians replied - yes, it would conflict. They claimed that the Danish Island was within the sphere of their operations, and told Eisenhower that Russian troops were being sent to take over.

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WAR CRIMINALS

The chief American prosecutor of war criminals, Supreme Court Justice Jackson, left London today, returning to the United States. He is coming for the closing session of the Supreme Court in Washington, and is due back in London in a couple of weeks -- to continue his work in preparing for the trials of Nazis guilty of international crimes. He stated today that he would return to London with what he called, "a sufficient staff to carry out our share of the work." And war crimes Prosecutor Jackson added that rapid progress has been made for the task ~~ix~~ of bringing war criminals to justice.

Meanwhile, we have a London denial of a report that the trial of Goering, so long the Nazi Number Two Man, would begin next week. British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden said - "there's nothing to the rumor." And he spoke of what he called, "Over-simplifying a very complicated matter."

CLARK

Today in Chicago a tall American General stepped out of a plane - a figure made familiar by countless pictures. Way over six feet, and so lean and lanky as to appear still taller, a long face and a big nose, In other words, General Mark Clark. Our top flight commanders in the European war are returning home, and General Clark arrived today - for a homecoming in Chicago. He was greeted by his wife and daughter, Chicago's Mayor Kelly, and an outpouring of cheering crowds.

TRAIN

Today, Memorial Day, a railroad train made an unscheduled stop on the South Dakota prairie, two miles west of the town of Elrod. The conductor hopped off and placed a wreath of flowers, on a lonely grave not far from the tracks. To the astonished passengers he explained this was a memorial day ritual that he had been carrying out for years - and his father-in-law before him. The lonely cross on the prairie marked the grave of a little boy.

Fifty-five years ago, he related, his father-in-law was the conductor of this same train, Old Hundred and Six of the Chicago Northwestern. And one day he was standing on the rear platform as the train rattled across the prairie. He saw a small boy with tousled hair - who waved at the train. The conductor waved back. That began a curious kind of railroad friendship. Every time Old Hundred and Six went by, the boy was there to wave, and the conductor was on the rear platform to wave back.

Then, after two years of this, the boy was missing one day - and the next time, too. The conductor wondered. A whole week went by, with no further sign of the boy and on one trip the conductor stopped the train and investigated. At the place where the youngster had always stood and waved he found a small grave. Local people told him that the boy had died, and his parents, grief-stricken, had gone back east. They added that the lad, in his last request, had asked them to place him out there - "where", "the man waves to me from the train".

From that day on, the conductor, every Memorial Day, made it a practice to stop the train and place a wreath on the lonely grave. He did that for forty years, and then he turned old Hundred and Six over to his son-in-law, as conductor - with the request that he too continue the Memorial Day ceremony.

And now Goodnight