

LOWELL THOMAS BROADCAST FROM GUAM

June 14, 1945

GOOD MORNING, EVERYBODY:-

On my way round the world, flying into the sun, I at least can tell that I am approaching nearer and nearer to North America, because of the time. Only ten hours' difference now, between where I am on Guam, and Radio City in New York. Oh yes, and the broadcasting facilities here are a vast improvement over China, and over other parts of Asia as well. The radio studio here is air-conditioned, and the mechanical equipment just about as elaborate as you will find in the largest radio stations in the States.

There are radio representatives here at Admiral Nimitz' headquarters from all the major networks. Of course, it isn't true for them, but, to the visitor passing through it's difficult to decide

whether to spend all one's time with the Navy, and talk about that, or with the Army Air Forces. There is hardly time for both, for both are here in such overwhelming force. Since this is Fleet Admiral Nimitz' headquarters, I'll start with the Navy, that is, a part of the Navy whose operations are so shrouded with secrecy we hear far too little about it -- the Submarine Service.

The first point that impresses you when you look at the great battle charts here at Admiral Nimitz' great Far Pacific base, is that the Japanese Empire is now ringed with our submarines. By sea and by air the Japs have been cut off from most of their stolen empire. They are finding it difficult now even to maintain sea communications with Korea and other parts of the Asiatic mainland that they hold. The Japanese Navy has been whittled down until there is not much left of it, and it is difficult now for our submarines to find any big targets. Remember how early in the Pacific War we heard so much about Jap

destroyers -- the unusually large number of them they had? It's even difficult to find one to shoot a torpedo at any more. Commander Sam Dealey, a Texan, who made history in an American submarine, got five of the enemy destroyers on one patrol. Recently I was talking to Commander Norwell "Bub" Ward, skipper of the only submarine that has two presidential citations. It was from his craft that the torpedo was fired that sank the great Jap battleship, The Kongo. The submarines of all other navies give destroyers a wide berth. But our undersea craft fight it out with them, torpedoes against heavy firepower of destroyer guns, and, they generally are victorious. The deeds of Vice Admiral Charles Lockwood's great fleet of submarines, will make fabulous reading one of these days, when the stories can all be told -- when we haven't the security angle to worry about.

To continue, about the job they have done: they even have made it difficult for the Japanese to

do any fishing, and they are a people who live on rice and fish. Surface craft and planes also play a part in this. While with Commander R. R. Managhan, skipper of another of our submarines playing havoc with Jap shipping, he told me how he ran out of targets and resorted to shelling an enemy airfield.

At the start of the war all of our submarine captains were graduates of Annapolis. The Germans got so desperate for U-boat crews that they finally resorted to taking aviators, rushing them through a short course, and then putting them in command of their wolves of the undersea. Our skippers all grow up in the service. However, the war has been going on so long now that reserve officers have worked their way up to where they are in command.

At any rate, our submarines now have a fence right around the Mikado's islands, and the Japs, as we know, do not raise nearly enough food in their homeland to support the population. Does this mean



we can starve them out? Admiral Nimitz, and our submarine admiral, Lockwood, point to the way the Japs manage to hold out and somehow survive on barren islands like Wake, and Rota, one of the Marianas near Guam, that I have just had a look at from a plane. So it looks as though starving them out will take far too long a time. And that means, that as a nation we've got to go all out, fight with everything we've got, if we are going to get this Pacific war over in, say, nine months or a year or so.

Although I already have visited some of the B-29 bases here in the Marianas, I am hoping to see more of them. Until then, or rather until I get to a radio after another journey through the islands, so long, and now back to the NBC in New York.

The end of the battle of Okinawa comes closer and closer. Today the Tenth Army Yanks pushed the Japs still nearer to the sea. They reached a point less than three miles from the southern tip of the island.

This has been the bloodiest campaign of the entire Pacific War. It surprised nobody, because the ferocity of the resistance was predicted. The Japanese casualty list consists almost entirely of killed. The score to date is seventy-one thousand, two hundred and three dead soldiers of the Mikado. There were some eighty-five thousand to start with, so that means there are around fourteen thousand left, on top of a narrow plateau with their backs to the cliff, As Major General Hodge said last week: "Those cliffs will give the Japanese an excellent opportunity for suicide," all same ~~same~~ Saipan".

Some Japanese, however, are wondering.

The soldiers who give themselves up are numbered by the score; civilians by the thousand. On the West Coast, the first Marines are also advancing. They are moving up the crest of the Kumishi Ridge.

## JAPAN FOLLOW OKINAWA

The Premier of Japan himself today conceded that the Mikado had lost Okinawa. This was announced on the Tokyo radio. Nevertheless, said Suzuki, he will not resign. And he boasted that any attempts of the Allies to land on the Japanese home islands will be smashed.

He called upon the entire population, one hundred million, to rise as one great suicide corps. The subjects of the Son of Heaven must be prepared to sacrifice themselves in defense of the homeland.

## AIR WAR

Tokyo gives us plenty of news tonight about the air war in the Pacific. It is the enemy themselves who tell us that Liberators and Flying Forts from the European Air Forces are now in the Philippines. They will soon take their part in the raids on the Japanese homeland and the Asiatic mainland.

Tokyo also reports that our engineers have completed in one week five airfields on Okinawa. That means a total of ten in that vicinity; eight on Okinawa, two on nearby islands. Some of those fields are paved with concrete and are more than a mile long. The enemy claims to have pretty detailed information about our Air Forces. The Tokyo radio ~~announces~~ <sup>states</sup> that <sup>B</sup>B-24s, Medium Mitchell B-25s, and B-26 Marauders will be based on Okinawa. It adds that the Superforts of our Twenty-first Bomber Command, based on the Marianas, now number between seven and eight hundred.



## BORNEO

Any minute now we will have word that the Australians have captured Brunei City. The husky Gornstalks are driving inland with surprising speed. The Infantry of the Ninth Australian Division are closing in. One unit was reported only two hundred yards from the city limits. They made a quick dash down the course of the Brunei River. Another force is two miles behind the town. Others are on the heights overlooking Brunei.

The Japanese today for the first time acknowledged the capture of the island of Tarakan. Actually, the Australian and Dutch troops took it several days ago. It is a capture well worth while. Tarakan, off the eastern coast of Borneo, is filled with petroleum of high quality.

ADD BORNEO

And here is the news we were told to

expect. A bulletin which came in just a few minutes ago, reports that the Diggers have taken Brunei. In fact, they were in it yesterday, though ~~the fact~~<sup>that</sup> was only revealed this evening. The Japanese garrison made a get-away, withdrew into the hills south of the city.

CHINA

The Chiang Kai-Shek government has executed three Chinese officers. Their offense was theft and extortion in the handling of military supplies of Chinese armies.

Old China hands have known for ~~some~~ years that that ~~the~~ Asiatic institution, ~~called~~ "squeeze", was operating most actively. It seriously hampered the movement of supplies to armies fighting the Japanese and needing those supplies crucially. Chiang-Kai-Shek himself approved the judgment of a military tribunal. The officers executed were two major Generals and a Colonel.

This was a great day in Paris. A procession of seventeen motor cars rolled along the Champs-Elysees and under the Arc de Triomphe. In one of the cars rode General Dwight D. Eisenhower, whom the cheering French saluted <sup>as</sup> "Eek". The show was all in his honor. "Vive Eek" resounded up and down that magnificent Avenue by two hundred and fifty thousand Frenchmen. Ike was the man of the hour. General DeGaulle, as President of the Provisional French Government, bestowed upon him the Cross of Liberation and the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, the highest decoration within the gift of French Republic.

All this five years to the day after the Nazis goose-stepped along that same route.

Twice the procession had to stop, Parisian women flocked around the limousine in which Eisenhower sat. They wanted to kiss him. At the Place de la Bastille they swarmed all over the car and tried to pull him out of his seat. When he reached the Arc de Triomphe, soldiers from the leading French regiments formed into



A Guard of Honor. There General Giraud, the man who commanded the French forces in North Africa, greeted Eisenhower. "It certainly is good to see you here," said Eisenhower, as he shook hands with the hero of two wars.

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## CHURCHILL

President Truman will meet Winston Churchill and Premier Stalin some time between July Fifth and July Seventeenth. We learn this not from Washington but, again, from London. The Prime Minister told it to the House of Commons. President Truman had already told us that the conference would take place some time in the forty days ending July Seventeenth. Churchill's announcement makes it more definite.

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idea of trying to supplant their French friends in Syria. That means that the <sup>Sykes-Picco</sup> ~~Secret~~ agreement still stands. That is the agreement which gave Syria to the French under mandate at Versailles, to the undying disgust of T. E. Lawrence and the Arabs. Churchill added these words: "We have no wish to steal our friends' property in any portions of the globe".

He then indicated that the difficulties over Trieste will be one of the subjects taken up at the meeting of the Big Three. Until then, each side will maintain its present position. The United States and Great Britain on one side, Jugoslavia on the other. Churchill then emphasized the fact that Britain's accord with the United States continues to be complete.

TRUMAN

There will be great doings in western Missouri during the last week of this month. President Truman will return to his home town, Independence, for the first time since his succession to the White House. The folks at Independence are arranging an old-fashioned homecoming. On the following night, he will have to go through the same business at Kansas City, which is next door to Independence. There he will receive the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Kansas.



STIMSON

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The end of the war in Europe does not mean the resignation or retirement of General George Marshall. He will continue as Chief-of-Staff. War Secretary Stimson so announced today. The Secretary was quite annoyed about the rumors that Marshall was ~~to~~ to retire. Said he to the reporters: "You can ask all the questions you like about my resignation, but when you ask about Marshall, I shall react". And he added: "Let's not have any more rumors to that effect".

STRIKE

This was an election day for employees of the Erie Railroad. They have been voting whether or not to strike. The result will not be known until the middle of next week.

There is nothing to be alarmed about immediately. Even if the vote is in favor of a walkout, the dispute has to come up first before the National Railway Mediation Board at Washington. The union makes the charge that the company failed to abide by decisions of the National Railway adjustment bureau over wage claims.

Congressmen became interested today by what they learned about the treatment of veterans at the Veterans' Hospital at Northport, Long Island. Colonel Louis Verdell, Manager of the Hospital, admitted to a committee of representatives, that men had been slapped, hit with knotted towels, even choked. He says a story on page one of the New York World Telegram tonight. Colonel Verdell told the Congressmen that at least half of the soldiers assigned to his hospital as attendants are unfit for work; even some of the doctors are incompetent, he acknowledged. At least one of them is a neurotic. ~~But, said Colonel Verdell, Northport is not what it has been pictured. It is not the worst hospital in the service.~~

~~Earlier testimony brought to light that fifteen of the soldier attendants had recently been court-martialed. Five civilian employees at Northport have been charged with criminal offenses in the abuse of patients.~~

*chad*