

LOWELL THOMAS' BROADCAST FROM LUXEMBURG

April 10, 1945

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Or rather, Good Morning Everybody. I had intended to break in on the two Hughs, Hugh Gibson and Hugh James last night. But it was a case of being delayed at the Front. I had managed to get within about a hundred and twenty-five miles of Berlin - a little nearer Berlin than the city of Hannover, which our Ninth Army hasn't quite taken. I was with an infantry division south of Hannover, and some miles farther east, nearer Berlin. That was where I was delayed.

Everything is moving forward up that way, and I couldn't find any broadcasting facilities. It had taken a lot of chasing to catch up with our people who are chasing the Germans. Finally, I

managed to do it by jumping from a big plane to a smaller plane, and then to a still smaller one, the kind they use right at the Front for artillery observation. As a bright New Yorker correspondent remarked when I got back: "That's just the size plane to be speared by a cathedral spire and to stay up there looking as though it had always been there," like a weather vane.

But first, before I say anything more about that trip, and what I saw the boys doing, and about a lad from my own home on Quaker Hill, who I found at the front, east of the Wesser River, let's take a look at things in general here on the Western Front as they shaped up on the big map, at headquarters tonight, at the "briefing" from which I have just come:

Beginning up at the North, not much news from the Holland pocket, but a little farther east the British are nearing the great seaport of Bremen,

which the Germans apparently are trying to hold open, as an escape route. Montgomery and his men are hot on their trail there. Next, to the South, comes Simpson's Ninth Army, of our Twelfth Army Group. As I got into one little plane this morning, going in one direction, General Simpson was getting into another. ^{He told me that} /Hanover would fall to his forces almost any time. His men are now cleaning up the Germans in Hanover. In fact, they've gone on beyond and have today cut the autoban between Hanover and Berlin. Hamlyn, south and east of Hanover, is in the hands of Simpson's men, with the city of the Pied Piper still burning as I flew over it and landed in a meadow alongside the Wesser, and as I then crossed the river on a pontoon bridge to join our troops east of Hamlyn on the way to Brunswick, from whence it's just a short jaunt on to Berlin.

As for the Germans back there in that big Ruhr pocket, they are still fighting fiercely,

especially to the southeast. Evidently they no longer have any hope at all of breaking out of the trap completely surrounded as they are by our Ninth and First Armies. But they do seem to be trying to occupy the attention of several of our armored divisions. And that they are doing.

Still farther south, Patton's Third Army is pushing on, with one of his armored spearheads almost to the city of Erfurt; and the Seventh Army is nearing the vital industrial center of Schweinfurt, of unhappy memories for so many of our airmen who were shot down on those great raids when the Air Force was after those ball-bearing plants. General Arnold was telling some of us up here the other day that the Eighth Air Force bombing of Hitler's ball-bearing plants had forced the Germans to use a sleeve type of bearing, which wore ^{out} much quicker. He said those raids played a big part in winning the war.

Yes, and the French are just about keeping pace -

pushing on toward the city of Suttgart.

There is one story on which we haven't full details as yet; and it may turn out to be one of the great stories of the war. Hugh Gibson may get more on it over our New York press wires before the end of this broadcast period. The rumor is that the city of Brunswick, a city of half a million people, to the west of where I have been with our Ground Forces at the Front -- that Brunswick today has been putting out white flags, trying to surrender to Ninth Air Force Thunderbolts circling above. Round and round circled the Thunderbolts, and then they swept down on Brunswick, and out came the white flags. These planes were led by a Major Gus Mehess from Spux Falls, South Dakota -- Thunderbolts from a Fighter Group at the strip from which I took off on my way to the Front. In fact they invited me to go along -- piggyback in a Thunderbolt. The word is that Brunswick, just up ahead of which I finally got, that there the

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people were putting out white flags as the Thunderbolts swept over. So it looks as though Brunswick wants to surrender. But can it give up to airmen circling overhead?

And now Hugh Gibson, how about the news from the rest of the world? I wish I could listen in and hear about the war in the Pacific. We seem to be completely cut off from that over here. About my own experiences with the Ninth Army up there pushing on toward Berlin, more about that tomorrow night. And now so long, and back to New York.

Hugh Gibson - Standard. Tues., April 10, 1945.
Sunoco.

(Mr. Thomas spoke from Luxembourg 4 1/2 min.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

What Lowell Thomas has just told us about white flags at Brunswick is accompanied by news about another German city - and a more important one. Berlin! Today American scout planes flew over the German capital, and they report that Berlin appears to be a deserted city. They encountered not one burst of anti-aircraft fire.

WESTERN FRONT

~~Three American scout planes flew over Berlin~~
~~today, and report that the Nazi capital appears to be a~~
~~deserted city. They encountered not one burst of~~
~~anti aircraft fire. Those formidable batteries of Berlin~~
~~guns, which Allied pilots had learned to respect and fear,~~
~~were silent.~~ The ~~three~~ scouting flyers say they saw no
traffic in the Berlin streets, ~~or~~ ^{NO} throngs of people either.
Their report may give a clue to the real state of affairs -
a possible Nazi withdrawal from Berlin, a retirement to
the mountains of south Germany perhaps, for the final
Hitler stand. There have been other evidences to
indicate this, signs of a southward movement of Nazi
forces.

All this fits into the picture of military moves
today - two American armies competing ~~with each other~~ in
advances toward the German capital. They were the Ninth
and the First. The Ninth captured Hannover, which
important city fell without a fight - while other troops

of General Simpson's army pushed along on the highway from Hannover to Brunswick, one of Germany's great aircraft centers. Ninth Army troops are reported to be only fifteen miles from Brunswick - and sixty miles from the River Elbe, the last important river between the Western Allies and Berlin. They are driving toward the Elbe and the medieval city of Magdeburg.

First Army troops, ~~to the south~~, are now within a hundred and fourteen miles of Berlin; General Hodges' troops out in front in the race to the Prussian capital. They scored advances up to forty miles today, and captured Nordhausen. They are within a hundred and sixty-three miles of a junction with the Russians. Word comes in that the Ninth Army has now ~~passed~~ passed the 1st Army and is one hundred and three miles from Berlin.

Until a few days ago, General Patton's Third Army set the pace in the drive for Berlin - and a blistering pace it was. But Patton's armored columns have had to halt to bring up supplies. Now, however,

the Third Army has stocked up again, and is on the go.

Today's news tells of a Patton thrust into Bavaria, with Third Army tanks driving to within thirty-eight miles of the border of Czechoslovakia.

At the northern end of the line, the British are reported to have driven into Bremen. That important harbor is in flames, after having been under artillery fire for days. The Paris radio states that the British fought their way into the southern suburbs and are within three miles of the center of ~~Bremen~~ ^{the town.}

Here is the picture of the German collapse in terms of prisoners. Supreme headquarters in Paris discloses that General Bradley's Fourth Army group has captured its one millionth prisoner - one million since D-Day on June Sixth of last summer. That happened a day or two ago, and since then the count for prisoners taken by Bradley's forces has gone up eighteen thousand more - making today's total one million and eighteen thousand.

AIR FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

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Today the Air Force of collapsing Germany launched an eleventh hour assault of desperation. With Allied planes ripping what is left of Hitler's Reich, the Luftwaffe sallied forth in an attempt to check ~~the~~ the swarms of American and British planes. The German air command hurled its jet planes, the greatest mass of jet-propelled fighters that the war has seen thus far. Violent air battles raged, and the results tonight indicate another German air defeat. Of so little ~~xxxx~~ success was the mass attack of the German jet-propelled planes, that tonight's count gives a total of three hundred and ninety-seven German planes destroyed, most of these on the ground. They were shot up in the continuing air action against the Nazi flying fields.

Word has just come in that General Eisenhower announces: "German resistance in the West has collapsed."

FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

Still another summary is given us in a late
dispatch tonight from United Press Correspondent
John B. McDermott. He flashes: "It looks like the
final hours of World War Number Two in Europe are at
hand."

RUSSIA

We can mark down
~~Tonight~~ Vienna as captured. The latest tonight

states that the Red Army has occupied the entire city

west of the Danube Canal - and that represents more

than three-fourths of Vienna. Soviet forces have seized

the heart of the city, the famous area of the Ringstrasse,

and one report states that the Russians are now installed

in the Hofburg, the historic Imperial Palace of Vienna.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD OKINAWA

The latest from Okinawa tells of American advances to the northern section of the island - the part that is not heavily defended.

In the southern sector, where the Jap forces are concentrated, no progress was made today. Tonight's bulletin from Admiral Nimitz tells us that the most stubborn kind of Jap resistance is being encountered ^{on Okinawa} ↴

Against that enemy resistance, the heaviest bombardment of the war in the Pacific is being hurled. Not only are squadrons of warships off the coast blasting the Japs with shell fire, but the American forces on the island have massed more ^{batteries} ~~battalions~~ of artillery than ever before in the conflict with Japan.

OKINAWA

The ~~greatest~~ ^{war} duel in the ~~war in the~~ Pacific is thundering on the island of Okinawa. The American forces have massed more battalions of artillery against enemy positions than ever before in the conflict ^{with} ~~of~~ Japan. 50

Today General O.P. Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Tenth Army, said: "The concentration of guns per yard nearly equals the maximum known in warfare."

~~The~~ tremendous cannonade is urgently required, ~~for~~ Japs are occupying the strongest line of defense that the Americans have encountered in the Far Eastern war. It's a short line, across a narrow neck of land, and the country is rugged - ideal for the kind of defense the Japs customarily make. There are ridges, cliffs and gullies, which ~~they~~ ^{Japs} have honeycombed with underground fortifications. The dominating eminence is called - White Hill, and one American general stated today that White Hill was the strongest prepared position he had

ever seen, [^]And he added that the concrete and steel defenses of the hill made it similar to the most powerful strong points in the German Siegfried Line. Another high officer pointed out that the ridges the Japs are defending are so steep that it would be nearly impossible to get men up them, even if they were not defended at all.

The enemy line is such that the tremendous artillery bombardment may wipe out everything above ground and the Japs will ^{still} be there in underground positions, especially caves. ~~So no matter how great the torrent of shells is poured, the infantry will still have the job of clearing out the subterranean enemy - with flame throwers, and sealing them up in ^{their} caves.~~

Tokyo states that American troops have landed on another island in the ~~Ryukyu~~ group - Tsukata Island, which is some eight miles southeast of Okinawa. From our side, there is no confirmation of this newest

invasion, but the Japs are precise about it, stating that seventy landing craft poured a force of American troops ashore.

Tokyo shows increasing concern about Okinawa -

the Japs knowing full well the importance of that island, as a front doorstep to Japan proper. Today the Tokyo radio indicated that the Japanese high command is prepared to do everything it ^{can} ~~could~~ to defend Okinawa, even to the extent of sending what Tokyo called - "the whole Japanese fleet and whole air force." And it may be that Japan, stung to desperation, may risk the remnants of its fleet - though previous moves along this line have only resulted in the destruction of Japanese warships.)

~~SECRET~~ PHILIPPINES

Still another island in the Philippines has been invaded. ~~Gen~~ General MacArthur announces landings on Jolo, which is at the southwestern tip of the archipelago. The seizure of Jolo gives our forces control of the string of Sulu Islands, which reach southwestward toward the coast of Borneo.

On Luzon, Japanese resistance in the southern part of the island has collapsed, and the liberation of the great southern area of Luzon is at hand - so announces General MacArthur.

~~And now, Hugh James.~~

COAL

The latest headline tonight is good news
-- on the home front. An agreement has been
reached in the coal mine labor dispute -- the
producers and the Union having just made a settlement
for a new contract.

✓ And now, Hugh James