

Lowell Thomas Broadcast from London

April 3, 1945

In my first broadcast from this side of the ocean I made the mistake of saying "Good Evening, Everybody" when I should have said what I am saying now -- "Good morning, Everybody." For, of course, it's morning, and it's tomorrow, over here.

Again I am broadcasting from underground. And for a moment I am going to talk about something that doesn't exactly come under the heading of news, but it has to do with the coming San Francisco Conference, from which some of the most important news of our time may come.

On this side of the Atlantic I find the opinion rather freely expressed: Why hold the San Francisco Conference at this time? Why not postpone it? If the war in Europe should end this week or next, or within the next month or six weeks, would not that bring such a rush of decisions that would have to be made, on the spot, by the Allied

powers, that the San Francisco conference might seem utterly futile? In other words, the question is being asked over here: Why not put off the San Francisco conference for just a short time, until we know whether the Germans are going to fold up now or some time later on? That's one of the things being discussed widely in London today.

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London, of course, is also talking about the American announcement that Uncle Sam is going to be content with only one vote in the new world assembly that will be so important in the postwar period. With the British Empire to have six votes, and Russia three votes, for the United States now to come out and state that we Americans will only have one vote, well, that seems startling to say the least. The interesting angle to ponder over now is, will the Russians and the British still want to hold onto their multiple votes in a world assembly that is going to depend so much on America, and in which America will have only one vote?

Official quarters here in London are non-committal on this. For the moment the British are taking the view that this matter of America's voting power in the world assembly is an American domestic political matter. However, they do point out that John Bull had promised to support Uncle Sam if he claimed three votes in the world assembly. But now that President Roosevelt has announced that no such claim will be made, well then there simply is nothing for Britain to support.

Also, observers on this side of the Atlantic are waiting to see what the Russian reaction is going to be. That is, whether Joseph Stalin will follow Franklin D. Roosevelt's move and renounce Russian claims to multiple votes. That it does look as though President Roosevelt has made a move to keep his administration from being the target of too much criticism at home; but, in so doing he has put it straight up to Moscow. With America having only one vote in the world assembly, will Russia still insist on three votes, and will the

British Empire want six votes?

As you perhaps have heard, an important conference is going to take place here in London, beginning today -- Wednesday. An Empire pre-San Francisco Conference.

The latest Empire statesman to arrive was Prime Minister Smuts, who flew in today from South Africa.

The British say this London Empire Conference is not going to be spectacular, nor in any way sinister.

By sinister they mean that no attempt is going to be made to assemble a solid British Empire block all primed to go to California and work as a block. The word here in London is that this Empire Conference is not for the purpose of making decisions, but is simply an Empire counterpart of the recent Western Hemisphere Conference at Mexico City; also, that all final decisions will be left up to San Francisco -- including decisions to over-ride agreements made at Yalta, or made anywhere else.

I have just heard also that the British Foreign Office hopes that another Big Three Conference will be arranged before any meeting is held in San Francisco --

not necessarily a meeting between Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill: but a meeting of the three foreign ministers: Eden, Molotov and Stettinius. What to be done by the three foreign ministers? Well, the suggestion is made that some of the difficulties that have arisen since Yalta should be ironed out right away: the matter of the Polish representation, the whole business of multiple representation, and so on.

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For the moment my own plan is not to stay here in London for this Empire Conference. The discussions and conclusions are to remain secret. So, in a few hours I hope to be on my way to the continent, to get a little nearer to the actual battle front.

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Tonight, shortly after dusk, as I was walking down Oxford Street, heading in the general direction of Fleet Street, I received a shock, a reminder that London is still in the war zone and that the lights are not going on, -- not just yet. It was getting darker

and darker, with crowds hurrying home. Right in front of me, a woman, carrying a little boy, unable to see the irregular stones, tripped, fell, and sent her baby crashing to the sidewalk. And I could tell you of many other grim sights. But instead, while I pack my canvas bag and get ready to fly further East, I'll turn you back now to a voice from the Western Hemisphere -- back to Hugh Gibson in New York.

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Good Evening, Everybody! -

The Allies tonight are threatening to cut Germany into three parts. One drive is designed to slice off Holland and the northwestern corner of Germany. ~~British~~ Field Marshal Montgomery's troops are smashing northward. They have captured the city of Muenster and have taken ~~the cities of~~ ^{both} Osnabrück and Hamm. They are on their way ~~north~~ toward the North Sea. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ which tonight is only forty miles away, and are cutting in the direction of the great port of Bremen. They are ripping into Nazi held Holland, where fifty thousand German troops are threatened by a closing trap. Tens of thousands are trying to get away by sea - for a Nazi Dunkirk.

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The concern of the British in this ^{movement} ~~direction~~ is vividly comprehensible - when you think of rockets.

Holland provides the nearest bases from which the Nazis can launch their rockets against London. For the past few days, the British capital has been free of those

devastating missiles that strike through the stratosphere, and the British want to be rid of them for good. So there is a special eagerness, as Montgomery's armies thrust forward in the drive aimed to slice off Holland and northwestern Germany.

One of Montgomery's armies, the American Ninth, is on its way to Hannover - which historic city is of key importance as a transportation center. This evening's news tells us that Americans of the Ninth Army have by-passed the city of Bielefeld, and are now within thirty-eight miles of Hannover. This drive is aimed at the heart of the north German plain, on the road to Berlin.

In the strategy of cutting Germany into pieces, the most important news today is from General Patton's Third Army - with its rampaging tanks. The Third Army has captured the city of Kassel, and Patton's armor has

reached Gotha. The push to Gotha represents an advance of sixteen miles today, and places the Third Army within a hundred and forty-one miles of Berlin. Patton's distance from the Russians is a hundred and eighty miles, and a junction with the Soviets would divide northern ~~Germany~~ from southern Germany.

General Hodges's First Army is devoting its attention to the Ruhr, in which vast industrial area a hundred thousand Germans are surrounded. They have been making some desperate attempts to break out, but these have been beaten back - and the job now is one of mopping up the Ruhr. This may take ~~considerable effort~~ ^{some} and hard fighting, but it's only a matter of time. And today General Eisenhower ^{the First Army} ~~hailed its troops~~ for the victory of the Ruhr - calling it a magnificent feat of arms, which brings the end of the war appreciably closer.

How close it is, only time will tell. In Allied

military circles today there was talk about the probability of the Germans trying to make a stand along the Weser, which river, however, is no formidable obstacle. Further east is the Elbe, a larger stream - but a stand along the Elbe would leave Hitler with only a narrow strip of Germany. I am not a military man, but I am sure that if I were, I'd be baffled to figure out what the German war leaders can possibly do. ^{we can hope} ~~I am sure~~ that they themselves are baffled, ~~and distracted.~~

AIR WAR

The air war in Europe today struck at Kiel, Germany's greatest naval base. Kiel has been the home headquarters for the Nazi submarine fleet. Fourteen hundred American planes assailed Kiel, and the news story tells of German ships scurrying out to sea, trying to get out of the way of the rain of high explosive from above.

FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

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Late word indicates that German civilians are becoming tired of the bitter end fight waged by Nazi military forces. This comes from American Army headquarters, and ~~the information~~ is attributed to two captured German generals - and they ought to know. They tell of increasing hostility of civilians toward the German army. When a town is ordered to be defended to the last man, the civilians fail to hide their discontent. One story tells of a fanatical Nazi commander who took over in a typical German town. In a violent harangue, he proclaimed that the place would be defended to the death, and called upon the citizens to join in the supreme sacrifice. ~~inx@xzxzxzxzxzxzx~~ Any German, he thundered, who ~~is~~ ^{was} unwilling to fight to the death for Hitler should leave before the battle began.

P.S. Most people took him at his word, and left.

GERMAN GENERALS - WESTERN FRONT

London gives us a story of the fate that Hitler plans for himself. A German general is quoted as saying that Hitler intends to meet his end on the field of battle, while leading a picked force of his own Storm Troopers.

Nazi fanatics will defend Hitler as long as they can, and when that battle too is lost -- Hitler will place himself at the head of a special group of suicide Storm Troopers. These, says the German general, are now being selected - are being chosen for the doubtful honor of dying with Der Fuehrer. When the final moment of doom is at hand, Hitler will lead them into Allied gunfire, a sort of suicide pact.

RUSSIA

Moscow announces the capture of Wiener-Neustadt, which is an industrial city twenty-three miles south of Vienna - a center of Nazi aircraft manufacture.

And Soviet columns have reached a town called Baden, which is only eleven miles from Vienna. *and Velm only six miles away* Berlin calls the Russian offensive in Austria "overwhelming", and describes the drive as being on a hundred and fifty mile front - with Soviet troops crashing into the outskirts ~~districts~~ of Vienna in the south and southeast. The Berlin radio admitted, in the words of the news dispatch - that the German high command is powerless to control the situation.

ADD RUSSIA

21 A late Moscow bulletin states that in the sweep to the outskirts of Vienna, Soviet forces during the day captured three hundred and thirty towns, and more than twenty-three thousand prisoners.

Let's hear from Standard
of California, and then more
news.

OKINAWA

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The state of strange activity still continues on the island of Okinawa. That is - Jap activity, a lack of fighting. American troops have driven all the way across that long and narrow island. They did this in thirty hours and twenty minutes - pushing through hostile and unknown country. And today they expanded their beachhead to three miles, and at last reports were still moving on. All this - against virtually no resistance, in spite of the fact that the Japs are known to have some sixty thousand troops on Okinawa.

However, the easy time is not expected to last long. The Japs are sure to put up their usual fight to the death. ~~It is believed that they'll make their stand across the narrow island north of the town of Naha. There they could defend a front only four miles long - a great advantage. However, we hear that the Japs are concentrated in the part of the island ~~xxxx~~ best for the~~

FOLLOW OKINAWA

The latest tonight tells of new rapid advances
and ~~tells~~ ^{describes} the progress of the invasion of
Okinawa in these words - "going like clockwork."

archipelago. The latest to be taken is Tawi-Tawi,

at the extreme southeastern tip of the Philippines,

eight across from Borneo, which is only thirty miles

away.

The bulletin from General MacArthur announces

no violent fighting, no bitter, contested landings.

In fact, when American troops hit the beach at

Tawi-Tawi, they found Philippine guerrillas awaiting

them - a strong force of patriots who had been

fighting against the Japs.

PHILIPPINES

The seizure of islands in the Philippines is beginning to be monotonous - there are so many ~~of~~ individual bits of land in that great ^{Far Eastern} ~~archipelago~~ archipelago. The latest to be taken is Tawi-Tawi, at the extreme southwestern tip of the Philippines, right across from Borneo, which is only thirty miles away.

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TOKYO

Tokyo has been hit again, B-29s delivering another violent air assault against the industrial areas ~~that~~ ~~present~~ ~~from~~ ^{of} the Japanese capital. Headquarters at Guam says this latest raid was made by what it calls, "a very large force." The weather was bad, and bombing was done by instrument.

MANPOWER

The Senate today killed the compromise Manpower Bill. The House had passed one version of a law to control labor, the Senate another. A joint committee worked out a compromise, and that's the bill which was turned down today in the Senate. However, a new attempt will be made to work out something acceptable to both Houses - and the Manpower wrangle starts all over again.

9. *Hughes*
There are two separate things involved in this proposal of three votes for Russia. When the first disclosure was made some weeks after the Paris conference of the Big Three, President Roosevelt indicated that the idea was for the United States to have three votes in the assembly of the Economic Organization. But now we find out from Moscow that the three votes of Russia during three years in the San Francisco Conference, which is an established fact organization, will be given still further.

YALTA

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On the diplomatic front events moved fast today -- headlined by an announcement that President Roosevelt has cancelled the plan to ask that the United States be given three votes, instead of one, in the assembly of the proposed World Security Organization.

announced
This was ~~stated~~ today by Secretary of State Stettinius, who added that the President has not changed his mind about giving Soviet Russia three votes. There are ~~xxx~~ two separate things involved in this proposal of three votes for Russia. When the first disclosure was made, ~~many~~ weeks after the Yalta conference of the Big Three, President Roosevelt indicated that the idea was for the Soviets to have three votes in the assembly of the ~~Security~~ ^{world} organization. But now we find out from Moscow that it is also a case of Russia having three votes in the San Francisco Conference, which is to establish that organization. And it goes still further, with Moscow stating that

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President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill had agreed that the Soviet Republics of White Russia and the Ukraine should be admitted at San Francisco as member-founders of the Security Organization, thus not only Soviet Russia as a whole, but two of its subdivisions would come in, each with a vote. Today the Secretary of State put his okay on that. So the official proposal is for the Soviets to have triple ^{world} ~~Security~~ representation as founder members of the ~~Security~~ Organization and then three votes in the assembly.

~~Of course, the Soviets consist of sixteen Socialist Republics, and some day the notion might develop that each of these should have a vote -- sixteen Soviet votes. That might be considered along the line of six votes for the British Empire -- the British Dominions being admitted as member governments, as was the case in the old League of Nations. It all becomes decidedly complicated.~~

~~However, the United States, of which there are forty-eight, will be content with one vote.~~

At Yalta, President Roosevelt, when he found that Stalin wanted three votes, thought that ^{perhaps} ~~maybe~~ the United States should ^{also} have three. And that was conceded - but now -- the President says that one will do. This is taken to be in response to a wave of criticism, people saying that the multiple vote business violates the ^{Sovereign} equality of nations in the ^{Assembly} ~~Security organization~~ -- which principle of equality has been talked up a good deal.

The declarations by the ^{Secretary} ~~Security~~ of State ~~today~~ ^{made} were/at a press conference. Last week, when the secret of multiple voting ~~all~~ became public, the news correspondents gave the Secretary a list of thirty-three questions, and he said he would answer them later. Today he answered a number of them -- though not all. He gave an explanation of ~~ix~~ why the multiple vote business was kept a secret, and said that was because the President wanted to talk the matter over first with the American delegation. And he emphasized that the whole question of triple representation for Soviet Russia

will be decided by the San Francisco ^{Conference} ~~Conference~~ itself.

The Secretary of State declared today that only two things agreed upon at Yalta were kept secret - one being the multiple vote idea, while the other concerned the matter of territories taken away from defeated enemies. These are to be held in some kind of trusteeship.

7 Finally -- Secretary Stettinius denied all suggestions ~~that~~ the San Francisco Conference might be postponed. He said that the rapid development of victory in Europe makes it all the more necessary that the ^{meeting} ~~meeting~~ of the United Nations be held promptly.

Another point, though, is that the meeting will be held in London.

FOLLOW YALTA

Tonight British Ambassador Lord Halifax gave a British point of view. He denied that Great Britain is to have six votes in the assembly of the world organization.

Of course, the British dominions are to be represented, each with a vote, and that makes a total of six. But Lord Halifax argued that the British dominions are, in fact, independent countries. ~~They~~ ^TThey are within the fold of the British Commonwealth of Nations, but they would strongly resent any implication that they were not - independent. So reasoned Lord Halifax.

~~The~~ British views are further expanded by ~~word~~ ^{a message} that ~~is being~~ from Lowell Thomas, who is in London tonight. Radio conditions have prevented a direct broadcast from him, but he gets word to us that the reigning topic in ^{Britain} ~~London tonight~~ is President Roosevelt's decision not to ask for more than

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one vote for the United States. The British are wondering will the fact that the United States is content with one vote, have any effect on Soviet Russia? ^{Will Stalin change his mind?} Also - there is still plenty of opinion in London that the San Francisco Conference ought to be postponed - the argument being that a speedy end of the European war would take public interest off the ~~subject~~ ^{Meeting} of the United Nations.

1/2 And now, Hugh James

FOOD

1 min + few Sec.

There was a congressional discussion of the attitude of the Canadian government in the present food crisis. Colonel Ralph Olmstead of the American War Food Administration appeared before the Senate Food Investigating Committee, and read a Canadian letter denying some things that the Colonel had told the Committee last week.

At that time he had stated that our government, faced with all the food shortages, had tried to get supplies of meat from Canada - but this was turned down. *P* The letter he read today was from G.R. Paterson, a Canadian food official, who denied that the United States Government had ever approached Canada "officially" on the subject of food. To this Colonel Olmstead replied that the War Food Administration in Washington had made - "an informal ~~suggestion~~ suggestion." In this Canada was asked to ship meat to the United States under reverse Lend-Lease. But ~~nothing~~ nothing was ever done about it.

Colonel Olmstead went on to say that the food shortages are developing rapidly not only in meats but in a whole series of other items - and we'll have to get along with less to eat this year.

MAJOR GENERAL - WESTERN FRONT

The story of Major General Maurice Rose, who was killed by Nazi tank soldiers after he had surrendered, is an ~~tax~~ illustration of the valor and hardihood of commanding officers in this war. It is, likewise, an example of Nazi murder, or of the small scruple the Nazi soldier has about shooting. ~~xxxx~~ General Rose's car ran smack into a German Tiger tank. The General and his companions jumped out of the car, and held their hands above their heads -- in token of surrender.

"The tank commander," relates the General's aide, Major Ballinger, "stuck his head through the turret and started shouting orders to us in German. We couldn't understand what he was saying. General Rose kept saying over and over, 'I don't understand.' Then," the Major goes on, "we decided the Germans were telling us to disarm. So the General reached down, and taking his pistol holster off over his head, started to toss the gun to the ground."

He was doing that, disarming, when the tank soldiers opened fire -- and killed him.

Major Ballinger and the soldier driver jumped into a ditch, escaped -- and got back to their lines.

It may be, of course, that the tank crew thought the American General was reaching for his pistol to shoot, but the details of the story make it more probable that they were only too willing to kill a prisoner.

And now, Hugh James.