

# U. S. Fliers Swelter Passing Over Desert Sand Storm; Mercury at 120 in Shade; Miss Their Landing Field

Told by **LOWELL THOMAS** (Copyright, 1925.)



When we arrived at Ambala, headquarters of the royal air force in India, my engine developed a leaky cylinder, said Erik Nelson, pilot of the New Orleans and engineering of floor of the world 11 1/2 ft. "This might have caused us considerable delay while waiting for one to be shipped up from our case of spare parts at Karachi on the Arabian sea. But, to our delight, we found the British aviators in India all using American Liberty motors. They swore by them, too. This was most gratifying to us because European engines have long held a premier place in the aeronautical world. But since the war the Liberty has leaped right to the front.

All the British commandant had to do was phone over to his machine shops at Lahore, the city of Kipling and Kim, and have a new cylinder brought over by airplane. Unfortunately, the pilot had engine trouble shortly after leaving the capital of the Punjab and fell 1,500 feet near Amritsar, the sacred capital of the long-haired Sikhs. Leaving the remains of his plane on the outskirts of Amritsar and putting the cylinder

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Lv. Omaha, 8:05 a. m. Lv. Kansas City (The Rainbow Special) 4:00 p. m.  
Ar. Kansas City, 3:30 p. m. Ar. Hot Springs (next day), 10:00 a. m.

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### REDUCED FARES

under his arm, the badly shaken but otherwise uninjured pilot boarded a native bullock cart, drove past the golden temple of the Sikhs and the looms where the famous Amritsar carpets are made, caught a train and turned up in Ambala at 3 in the morning. It was no small favor that this British airman had done for us and we appreciated it more than we had words to express at the time.

"Meanwhile the royal air force pilots in Ambala entertained us at their mess, and we had a particularly enjoyable evening, partly because it was not marred by a lot of unnecessary speeches. Like aviators the world over, we found these English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh fliers who police the airways of this empire of romance a great crowd of fellows and we enjoyed being with them.

"Heat-Crazed Fliers Common. They had been horror-stricken when they saw us climbing from our planes wearing the regulation leather helmets used in modern climates, and told us harrowing tales of how men went mad in the air as a result of the tropical Indian sun. While flying along the Afghan frontier, where the royal air force keeps the wild Afridis, Wazirs and Mahsuds from raiding down into the plains of India, they said that pilots often did insane stunts that could only be accounted for by the sun. They also told of other pilots going up in ordinary flying helmets, feeling the dizziness of sunstroke coming over them, and just getting back to earth in time to climb out of their cockpits before falling over unconscious.

"They told us about the specially constructed aviation pith sun helmets they had developed for India, and proceeded to equip us with them. The Royal Air Force at once is divided into two sections, A and B. When we visited Ambala the fliers of A section were taking turns doing six weeks' patrol work in the wild mountains of Westistan along the north-west frontier. So the boys of B organization calmly broke into the store-room belonging to their absent comrades in order to outfit us with helmets. When we objected they said the men of A flight would do exactly the same if the position were reversed, and insisted that we would be as crazy as lions before reaching Baghdad if we didn't accept them. So from then on until we reached northern Arabia we wore the helmets of the Royal Flying corps. Those pith topees are now among our most prized souvenirs.

"Off for Desert. Early next morning we installed the new cylinder in my engine, and started west across the northern rim of the great Sind desert at 9. This was Thursday, the third of July, a day none of us will ever forget, because it was the day we flew through the most violent sandstorm we had ever seen.

"Leaving Ambala we crossed the rich land of the five rivers where the British are completing some of the largest irrigation projects in the world. One result of the ambitious irrigation schemes that the British have put through in India is that great plagues are becoming rarer. In railway mileage they have made India the fourth country in the world, and when a plague breaks out in one part of the country they rush train loads of grain to the stricken region in time to keep the plague from spreading. Another result of the 150 years of peace the British have brought to this vast, chaotic land, is that the population has increased by 100,000,000.

"Before reaching the desert we flew over the native state of Patiala, famous for the Maharaja's championship polo teams. Polo, of course, is a Central Asian game, and was played by maharajas, rajahs and lesser nabobs out here long centuries before it was ever heard of in Europe. The children to this day play it in the streets of the Vale of Kashmir. The first that Europe heard of it was when Marco Polo, the Venetian traveler and adventurer, returned from his long overland journey to the court of Kaublai Khan in the fifteenth century.

### MISSOURI PACIFIC

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still under native rule. The whole of Hindustan is divided into two types of territory; the great British-Indian provinces such as Bengal, Bombay, province, Bihar and Orissa, Madras province, the Punjab, etc., and then many native states ruled over by Indian rajahs and maharajas with British advisors to assist them.

"The British-Indian provinces form about two-thirds of the country. The rest is made up of these native states, where the maharajas of Bikanir, Patiala, Kapurthala, and Travencore, and the begum of Bhopal, the sultan of Swat, the khan of Kalat, the nizam of Hyderabad, the galkwar of Baroda, etc., still maintain their courts with all of the old time oriental splendor, pomp and circumstance. They still wear the gorgeous costumes of olden times, long strings of priceless pearls, cloth of gold robes, and loop the loop slippers. They still ride in golden howdahs on elephants gaily caparisoned with jeweled tapestries. But of course the British control their exchequers, regulate their customs, handle their commerce, and attend to all matters relating to foreign affairs.

"It is interesting to note that Indian agitators have almost no supporters in these native states, and the outsiders who know nothing about it wonder why the British are not attempting to solve their problem by breaking the whole of India up into these native states.

"Each day during our flight across Hindustan it grew hotter and hotter. So we climbed to 6,000 feet to escape it. But while crossing Patiala we suddenly ran into a sandstorm that completely obscured the earth as well as the railway line that we had been following. In order not to lose our way we descended to within 50 feet of the ground and then groped along the railway.

"Through Terrific Sandstorm. Linton Wells, the stowaway, who was now riding in the rear cockpit of the Boston with Lieutenant Ogden, gives a graphic description of this flight across the desert.

"Never in my life have I gone through such hell. With Lowell Smith leading, we tried every altitude from 50 feet to 7,000, without being able to escape. The sand whirled around us like snow, only infinitely thicker, and so fine that it went right through our clothes. In a few minutes our eyes, ears, nose and mouth were full of it. The heat was simply terrific, just like the blast from a furnace. Even when Smith led the way down to within a few feet of the ground it was only possible to see the railway now and then because the rails were buried. Visibility was at a minimum, but occasionally we would flash by a small village. Before we were half way to Multan, the military post in the desert, where we were to refuel, our eyes were bloodshot and our faces lacerated by the flying particles of sand that stung like needles.

"Miss Landing Field. The flying field at Multan is the parade ground of the military cantonment. Although Commander Smith knew exactly where it was on his map, the planes swept right on over the town in the blinding storm. But after flying on for another 10 or 15 minutes he knew by the mileage recorded on his instrument board that Multan must be somewhere behind them. Thousands of troops had been placed in a single line, shoulder to shoulder, all the way around the landing field. They heard the three planes passing overhead, but were unable to see them. However, when they flew back through the storm Smith changed his course slightly and came square over the parade ground just a few feet above the heads of the soldiers. Circling around several times, all three planes made a perfect landing.

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"As we climbed out of our cockpits Colonel Butler, the British officer in command at Multan, came over to us with his staff," says Lieutenant Arnold, "but before even shaking hands they handed us tall glasses of ice-cold lemonade. I have had many delicious and satisfying drinks in my life, but none to compare with that lemonade in Multan.

"The thermometer when we arrived at Multan, or rather Moulten, as it ought to be named, was 120 degrees in the shade. Colonel Butler cheered us with the news that it was the hottest place in India. It certainly was the hottest place any of us had ever visited, or ever hope to visit either in this world or the next."

Read the next installment of the story of the thrilling round-the-world flight in The Omaha Bee tomorrow.

### LINCOLN HIGHWAY IN BAD CONDITION

Kearney, Jan. 7.—Even main-traveled highways in this part of the state are still far from being speedways. Travel lanes are open both east and west on the Lincoln highway, but the route can be negotiated only with difficulty, with many drifts to be encountered and frequent field detours to be followed.

### Bull Sells for \$1,000.

Cambridge, Jan. 7.—Moose Bros. annual sale of Hereford cattle in the Cambridge stock pavilion was attended by representatives from 10 states and from Canada. The top bull sold for \$1,000 to the Axtell farms of Aurora, Ill. A banquet was given the evening of the sale.

### Final Clearance

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Q.R.S. Player Rolls ARE Better  
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### New Discovery Limbers Up stiff, Sore, Swollen Joints

Soaks right into tendons and ligaments of your joints—right where the trouble starts—Then blessed comfort comes quickly.

### Hahne Deposit Box Is Opened; Gems Missing

Search of the safe deposit box of Mae E. Hahne in the First National bank Wednesday morning failed to disclose her missing diamonds valued at \$10,000.

### Wills of Pair Found Deeding Property to Each Other; \$5,000 Insurance of Ax Victim Bought in 1923.

Deed of Mrs. Hahne to a lot in Evergreen cemetery, Colorado Springs, Colo., was taken by the relatives, who will leave, probably Wednesday, with the body for Colorado Springs.

### Two Short Wills.

It disclosed two short wills made by Mr. and Mrs. Hahne, bequeathing their property to each other in case of death. These were dated in 1916. A certificate of their marriage in 1915 was found.

### Advertisement for F. W. Thorne Co.

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### Dempster Sales Show Big Gain

Beatrice, Jan. 7.—The future looks bright for the coming year, said C. B. Dempster, president of the Dempster Mill Manufacturing company here, in submitting his annual report to the meeting of the stockholders.

### Masons Conduct Rites for Reese

Randolph, Jan. 7.—Funeral services for W. E. Reese, elected county commissioner of the southern district of Cedar county at the November election, were held here, the Masonic lodge assisting in the ceremonies.

### Farmers Reducing Herds.

Columbus, Jan. 7.—Milk cows and dairy cattle, as well as the usual mid-

### Advertisement for Beware the Cough or Cold that Hangs On

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Hats of unusual style smartness—and to think they can be had for only \$1.00. The crowds will be intense, so be here early.

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## Coats and Dresses

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