

MARCH OF TIME
July 8, 1937

FINAL REVISE
BLIND MAN'S BUFF

VAN

1 At ten-thirty tonight it is 160 hours since aviatrix
2 Amelia Earhart and her Navigator, Fred Noonan, were
3 first reported down somewhere in the Pacific. And as
4 the desperate search which has been in progress for almost
5 a week continues, the world begins to piece together the
6 events of the anxious days since the plane was first
7 reported lost. It is 7:30 on Friday morning. In the
8 wireless room of the Coast Guard Cutter Itasca, stationed
9 at Howland Island to direct the Earhart plane, the first
10 officer speaks to the wireless operator:

11 OFFICER (Jerome)

12 Any new word from the Earhart plane, Sparks?

13 SPARKS (Readick)

14 Nothing since about an hour ago -- reported herself about
15 a hundred miles out, then. (RADIO BURBLES) Wait a
16 minute!

17 EARTHART (Gould)

18 (COMING IN) (FILTER) KHAQQ calling Itasca -- KHAQQ --
19 Amelia Earhart -- calling Itasca -- we must be right near
20 you, but cannot see you. Gas is running low. Have been
21 unable to reach you by radio. Flying at 1,000 feet.

22 (BURBLES OUT)

23 OFFICER

24 Right near us! They've made some mistake. She must be
25 way off her course!

26

27

SPARKS

1 Yeah, I'll try to get her with the direction-finder.
2 (CLICKS) Itasca calling KHAQQ -- calling KHAQQ --
3 direction-finder frequency 550 to 270 -- please transmit
4 on 500 kilocycles so we can cut you in -- KHAQQ --
5 transmit on 500 kilocycles so we can locate you -- go
6 ahead!

OFFICER

7 She can't be far away.

SPARKS

8 She may have overshoot us.

AMELIA

9 Can't pick you up. (FILTER) KHAQQ calling Itasca --
10 can't hear you ... we are circling but cannot see
11 Howland Island.

OFFICER

12 Can't hear us!

SPARKS

13 She'll never find the Island!

AMELIA

14 Gas will last about half an hour more (BUBBLES) KHAQQ
15 calling Itasca ... KHAQQ ...

SPARKS

16 If that's all the gas she's got, she'll come down in
17 the water.

OFFICER

18 Got in touch with the land stations. (MUSIC SNEAK)
19 They may be able to check her position. Try to get through
20 to her ... (MUSIC UP AND DOWN)

AMELIA

1 (FILTER) SOS -- SOS -- AMELIA EARHART - KHAQQ
2 (BURBLE AND MUSIC SNEAK) Position not plotted yet, but
3 think we are about 100 miles from ...

4 (MUSIC UP AND DOWN)

5 VAN

6 As the news of the disaster is flashed to the world, the
7 U.S. Government goes into action. While the Coast Guard
8 Cutter Itasca patrols the waters North of Howland Island
9 trying to trace the faint radio calls, other Navy boats
10 take up the search. Twelve hours later: In a cafe near
11 San Diego, California:

12 (BEER HALL SOUNDS) (MUSIC)

13 M.P. (MacDonald)

14 'Tention! Attention! (MUSIC DIDDLES. VOICES DOWN)

15 All members of the crews of the Lexington, Drayton,
16 Lamson and Cushing report to ship immediately ... all
17 liberty cancelled!

18 FIRST SAILOR (Delmar)

19 Leave's cancelled? What's up?

20 M.P.

21 Sailing tonight to help look for Amelia Earhart!

22 SECOND SAILOR (De Corsia)

23 Do they know where she is yet?

24 M.P.

25 No, but we're carrying 92 planes. We'll cover every inch
26 of the Pacific with those babies. (MUSIC SNEAK) Come on,
27 all you back to ship and get a move on!
(MUSIC UP AND DOWN)

1 (FILTER) SOS ... SOS ... position 281 North Howland ...
2 can't hold out much longer ... motor sinking in water ...
3 very wet ... position 281 North Howland ... (MUSIC SNEAK)
4 SOS ... SOS ...

5 (MUSIC UP AND DOWN)

6 VAN

7 Two eighty-one North Howland ... first definite clue in
8 four days to the position of the Earhart plane. Ships
9 are rushed to the area 280 miles north of Howland Island,
10 find only open sea ... two days pass, and the search
11 turns from northern position to the Phoenix Island area
12 south of Howland Island. On board the U.S. Battleship
13 Colorado, (PLANES) only ship to have arrived in the South
14 Pacific area capable of making an effective search, three
15 planes stand waiting to be catapulted off the deck:

16 DISPATCHER (Johnstone) *Adams*

17 All set, Lieutenant?

18 LT. (Delmar)

19 Yes, sir.

20 DISPATCHER

21 Cover the quadrant East of Howland Island. Make sure
22 you've got fuel to get back to the ship. If you get in
23 trouble, try to make Howland for a landing.

24 LT.

25 I understand, sir. Any check on her position?
26
27

DISPATCHER

1 No, you'll just have to trust to luck. O.K. Set!

2 (PLANE ROARS, IS CATAPULTED INTO THE OCEAN)

3 (MUSIC SNEAK)

4 All right, Lt., you're next!

5 (MUSIC UP AND DOWN)

6 AMELIA

7 (FILTER) SOS ... SOS ... KHAQQ ... Amelia Earhart ...

8 (GARBLE) Position Longitude and Latitude as follows:

9 (MUSIC UP AND DOWN)

10 VAN

11 Still heard are faint signals from Amelia Earhart, as the
12 first week of the search nears its close ... and as the
13 hours pass with no trace of the missing plane, this week
14 is reported a scene in Oakland, California, as George
15 Palmer Putnam, husband of Amelia Earhart, calls on the
16 wife of the navigator, Mrs. Fred Noonan:

17 BEE (Kolly)

18 I'm glad you've come, Mr. Putnam. I was just going down
19 to the airport to look for you.

20 G. P. (Adams) *Johnston*

21 It's all right, Bee. Everything is going to be all right.

22 BEE

23 Yes ... they're alive ... they must be, mustn't they?

24 G.P.

25 Sure! I have a hunch they're sitting somewhere on a
26 coral island, sending out their signals ...

27

BEE

1 And they have plenty of food, haven't they?

2 G.P.

3 Sure, sure, Bee -- plenty!

4 BEE

5 Oh, they're all right! I know they are! (BREAKS DOWN)

6 G.P.

7 Listen, Bee. One of two things has happened. Either
8 they were hurt on the landing and might die, or they
9 weren't hurt and will be picked up. I think the messages
10 prove they're still alive!

11 (MUSIC)

12 VAN

13 For six days, ships and planes of the U.S. Navy, and
14 vessels of half a dozen other nations have been combing
15 the South Pacific for the Earhart plane; and by a strange
16 coincidence, this week brings one of aviation's greatest
17 recent advances. Taking off simultaneously from England
18 and America this week a Pan-American clipper and a British
19 Imperial Airways liner wing out over the Atlantic.
20 Maintaining constant communication with their bases, the
21 two ships pass each other in mid-ocean, arrive on schedule
22 on opposite sides of the water within 16 minutes of each...
23 epoch-making flights that presage a regular commercial air
24 service over the 1900-mile stretch of the Atlantic Ocean.
25 But on the other side of the world, where tonight at 10:30
26 squalls and heavy seas are reported sweeping over the
27 South Pacific, it has been *just 24 hours and 10 minutes* since the last
(Cont'd.)

faint message was received from the plane of Fred Noonan
and Amelia Earhart!

(MUSIC CURTAIN)

TIME MARCHES ON!