

'Hap' Arnold Almost Quit U.S. Army Once Because He Wanted To Ride In Cavalry

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK.—(AP)—Gen. "Hap" Arnold, dead at 63, once almost quit the U. S. Army because they wouldn't let him ride a horse.

This is one of many odd quirks in the career of the genial airman who never fired a gun in anger himself but commanded the mightiest armada in history—the globe-ranging U. S. Army Air Force in the second world war.

The only wound he suffered in two world wars—he saw combat action in neither—came when he was struck by some shotgun pellets during a pheasant hunt.

Monument Remains

Yet the American Air force of today stands as a monument to his pioneer courage aloft and his cheerful but diplomatic toughness in winning a top place for airpower in Washington's behind-the-scenes military struggles.

Two examples of his pioneering: 1. As a young flier Arnold neatly zoomed down and plopped a bag of mail in the front yard of a postoffice to prove the Army could deliver airmail.

2. In 1945 he commanded the Air Force that opened a new era of war and peace by dropping two bombs on Japan. It was a force that had grown to 2,200,000 men and 70,000 planes.

The story of "Hap's" adult life parallels the growth of the airplane as a chief instrument of military decision.

Go to Infantry

But when he was graduated from West Point the big lieutenant—he stood six feet, weighed 185 pounds—was so crazy about horses he threatened to quit the Army if he was assigned to the infantry instead of the cavalry.

Naturally, the Army assigned him to the infantry.

Hap swallowed his pride and stayed in service. Four years later, in 1911, he was the fourth man in the Army chosen to study flying at Dayton, O., under the Wright brothers. And two months later after he took his first lesson he was a flight instructor.

It is interesting to conjecture what would have happened to Arnold—and to American airpower—if he had won his first heart's desire assignment to the Cavalry.

Backed Mitchell

For throughout his career Hap was aligned with "Billy" Mitchell and the other Army rebels of the years between the wars who sought a more important role for airpower. His victory came when the American Air Force was permitted to practice daylight precision bombing against Germany, which he had advocated as



OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams

Cowpoke Adjusts Sponge Before Mounting Saddle

against area bombing by night.

And his vindication came after the war when prisoner Herman Goering, asked by the U.S. strategic bombing survey whether area or precision bombing had been more effective, replied:

"The precision bombing, because it was decisive. Destroyed cities could be evacuated, but destroyed industries were difficult to replace."

In Hot Water

Arnold, despite his catchy grin and easy-going air, was sometimes in hot water with his superiors. He wrote in his memoirs, "Global Mission," that President Roosevelt threatened to exile him to Guam in 1939 when Hap was in a fuss with then Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau.

In 1943 he became the first American airman to win four-star general's rank, and later was promoted to five stars. When he retired, he said he was going to sit under an oak tree and look at white-faced cattle, and added jestingly:

"If an airplane dares to fly low over my ranch house, I'll grab a rifle or something and shoot it down!"

Shortly after that two training planes collided over his home, and one—the pilot escaped by parachute—crashed in his pasture and blew up.

Wanted Power For U.N.

After retirement Arnold criticized the United Nations as ineffective because it has no power to enforce decisions. He expressed belief that there would be no immediate war, but said the only thing that would stop Russian expansion was the threat of retaliation—from an airforce mightier than her own.

At the Potsdam conference, Hap Arnold wrote in his memoirs, a number of chief British and American commanders, thought there would be another war in 29 years.

But this was his thought: "There must not be any more wars. We must not just arm for defense, but we must be strong enough to make sure there are no more wars."

"We should have sent a big stick into the Munich conference instead of an umbrella. The same applies to the future."

Slayer Of Fifty Deer In 3 Months Faces Law

WENATCHEE, Jan. 17. — (AP)—Warren Griffith, Entiat valley rancher who admitted shooting 50 deer in the past three months, Monday was charged on two counts in justice court here.

County Prosecutor Robert E. Conner said charges were filed against Griffith for killing 15 deer, and failing to report the

killings. Conviction on both counts would bring a minimum fine of \$200.

The rancher said he shot the deer to prevent them from damaging his orchard. He said he had not notified authorities or dressed out the animals.

U.S. dairy cattle have been increasing at a rate of 2,000,000 every ten years.

Before that he carried his stuff in a gunny-sack.

The rigging consists of a leather strap to pass around the bare-back horse. There's a taped handle attached to the strap, sort of like a suitcase handle, just big enough for the rider to grasp with one hand.

With this simple equipment, and with the sponges, of course, he's built himself a bankroll, a name, and a future of sorts.

"I'll stick with this business as long as I can," he says. "It's the only thing I know. You hear a lot of sentimental talk about the smell of the horses and all getting in your blood. That's the baloney. I don't like to smell a horse any more than you like to smell a typewriter. But it's my living."

His buddies like him because he's affected no airs since becoming a champion. He carries his bucking-horse rigging in a cheap canvas bag.

Of course, there's more to it than the sponges.

"The only way to learn to ride bucking horses is by falling off them," he believes. "You can't ask a horse to buck just a little bit."

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Tax Exemptions Far In Billions

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. — (AP)—Total receipts of all tax-exempt organizations reporting to the Bureau of Internal Revenue have neared the \$10 billion mark, the national industrial conference board said today.

The board, privately supported research organization, said it tabulated figures for the latest available year, 1946, to show 99,467 returns accounted for total receipts of \$9,853 million.

The figures include receipts from dues, assessments, gifts, grants, interest and dividends, rents, gross receipts from business activities, and gains or losses from sale of assets.

About 28,000 of the tax-exempt organizations, the board noted, were engaged primarily or exclusively in business activities in 1946. These included farmers' co-operatives associations whose total receipts were placed at \$3.6 billion, and mutual savings banks.

Windows, Frames and Ladders

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Miss Truman Not Yet Prepared For Concert Stage

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON.—The capital's music critics were polite in their reviews of Margaret Truman's offerings at her latest concert here, but they were not enthusiastic.

The consensus was that Margaret had a pleasing voice but that she was not yet ready for the concert stage. Nevertheless the audiences that have heard her throughout the country seem to enjoy her singing.

Margaret isn't bothered by the critics. She says she will go right on with her singing and some day hopes to sing in opera.

She says she practices three to four hours a day, either in her own New York apartment or in that of her famous teacher, Helen Traubel, the "Met's" great Wagnerian soprano from St. Louis. She sings in French, Italian, German, Spanish and English.

Margaret stays away from night clubs because she doesn't like the smoke, but says she lives "a normal life, has dates now and then." When she travels she goes by train or automobile because she "promised mother" she wouldn't fly.

Margaret started her musical career when she was seven years old, learning to play the piano on the old family upright back in Independence, Mo. About nine years ago she started studying voice. Her first teacher was Mrs. Thomas J. Strickler of Kansas City.

In February 1945, Margaret then a senior at George Washington university, wanted to chuck college and concentrate on singing. Her father put his foot down. She was graduated in May 1946, receiving a degree in history. In the fall, Margaret up and quit the family circle, went to New York to study. Several months later, Miss Reatha Odum, her mother's secretary, who is now living with Margaret, announced her radio debut in Detroit. Her stage concert debut was in Pittsburgh Oct. 17, 1947.

Margaret's voice is all that counts with her. She says it is her future.

"Miss Truman does not want

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Kill Too Heavy, Jap Town Erases Bounty On Boars

TOKYO. — (AP)—The wild boars were driving the villagers wild.

So the village fathers of Nanae, on the coast northeast of Tokyo, put up a bounty of 10,000 yen (about \$28) for each dead boar.

The way those boars were rooting around, trampling crops, etc., the village fathers figured that was a cheap price.

Within a few days hunters knocked off 51 boars. They dragged the carcasses to the village and called for their bounties.

A quick calculation showed the village owned 510,000 yen. That would bankrupt richer villages than Nanae.

To avoid bankruptcy, the village called off the bounty. The

to base her career on the fact that she is the daughter of the President," Miss Odum said at the time of Margaret's radio debut. "She wishes to be accepted as a singer on her own merits."

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