New Schools Training War Vets Require Rigid Local Examination

By PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—District of Columbia's experience with veterans' trade schools may give a clue to what has gone wrong nationally with the GI below-college level education.

Last July the D. C. Commissioners—particularly Commissioner Guy Mason—became concerned over complaints against the mushrooming GI trade schools in Washington. Over 300 academic, arts and vocational schools had been approved by the Board of Education for GI training. The Board was required to certify only that the schools had the faculty and equipment to train veterans. It had no responsibility over the quality of the training.

Nearly 10 per cent of the district vets were enrolled in trade schools and 15 per cent more were taking college-level courses. The schools were doing a $10,000,000 to $12,000,000 a year business.

There was no complaint against the old-time colleges nor against the established correspondence, trade and vocational schools which had been in business 20 years and more. All the complaints were against the newer schools.

Disputes Snag Inquiry

So a 20-man committee was named to investigate. Leon G. Chatelain, Jr., an architect, was named chairman. Gino Simi of the District of Columbia apprenticeship office was made secretary. The committee was made up of businessmen, labor representatives and public figures. There were no spokesmen for the trade schools. But all the veterans' organizations were represented to look out for GI rights.

Almost immediately the committee bogged down in disputes on what it should do. There was at first a charge that the schools had used fraudulent advertising to attract students. Yet none of the advertising was investigated.

One feeling developed in the committee that all these new schools represented new business enterprises in the community and that they should be encouraged. Also, there was some feeling that the schools were being fought by labor unions that wanted to restrict the number of men trained in any trade to their own apprentices.

After six months of wrangling over points like these, a number of the members felt that the committee wasn't getting any place and ought to disband. The secretary resigned. The chairman appointed himself a committee of one to write a report.

Local Inspection Needed.

The moral of this story, as it can be applied nationally in all the states, is that unless there is good local inspection of vets schools, there are bound to be complaints of abuses and waste of both the taxpayers' money and the GI entitlement to educational benefits.

There is a great congressional fear of federal control over education. This was apparently what motivated Congress in taking the inspection and certification of schools, for GI training out of the hands of the Veterans' Administration. Everything was left up to local authorities—state boards of education and their designated agencies.

For the training and education of disabled veterans, the VA was given this authority. That program has been run off without much complaint. But the fear of giving the VA too much control over local education may have backfired in training vets not disabled.

One trouble is that there are no established standards for training barbers, bricklayers or beauticians. Schools approved in some states would never have been approved in others. Barbering courses for instance, varied from 11 to 104 weeks.

Too many new schools were approved too fast. Thus 5600, or two out of three trade schools approved for vets, were established after the GI bill was paased in 1944. To correct these situations, Veterans' Administration, Budget Bureau and the President have recommended that the federal government be authorized to set minimum standards under which these schools can be oprcrated.

Jesuit Claims Church Supplies Forced Laborers

VATICAN CITY, — (AP) —The Kremlin has turned the Roman Catholic church in Russia into one of the biggest sources of manpower for its forced labor camps and industries, the authoritative Jesuit journal "Civilta Cattolica" declares in its current issue.

Therefore, said the magazine, "Many thousands of Catholics must face a long but glorious martyrdom for their faith."

Writing on Russia and the 1950 holy year, the Rev. G. M. Schweigl pointed out no pilgrimages to Rome were being permitted from Russia or other Communist-dominated countries. Yet, he said, the return of Russia to the church is one of the chief Catholic hopes of the Holy year.

After 30 years of Communism in Russia, Father Schweigl wrote, "over the entire country there now spreads a network of millions of adherents to Communist ideology, and over this, another less conspicuous network of millions without faith, uncertain or indifferent."

Nearly the entire Roman Catholic hierarcy of Russia is in jail or in exile, he declared.

Russia's population of 170,467,186 in 1939 included 500,000 Roman Catholics, the Jesuit writer continued. Of 23,000,000 persons added to the Soviet population by territorial increases after world War II, 8,000,000 were Catholics.

Administrative measures against the Catholic church in the past four years have "sharply cut" the number of Russia's Catholics and will continue to do so, Father Schweigl wrote.

Britain Will Get B-29s In U. S. Aid

WASHINGTON, March 20 —(AP)— The first batch of about 75 American B-29 takes off for Britain today under the $1,000,000,000 arms aid program to strengthen Western Europe's defenses.

The seven-year-old planes, once the heaviest the American air force could send aloft, now are classed as "medium bombers." The giant B-36 is alone in the heavy bomber class now.

But the B-29 2,000-mile combat range and 10-ton bomb load are expected to add considerable striking power to the British air force. The British, in line with allied defense plans, have concentrated on building speedy jet fighters, leaving bomber production to the United States.

Forty eight American Hellcat fighters and Helldiver bombers were loaded aboard the French aircraft carrier "Dixmude" at Norfolk, Va., March 8. These were the first American weapons actually given to an Atlantic pact nation.

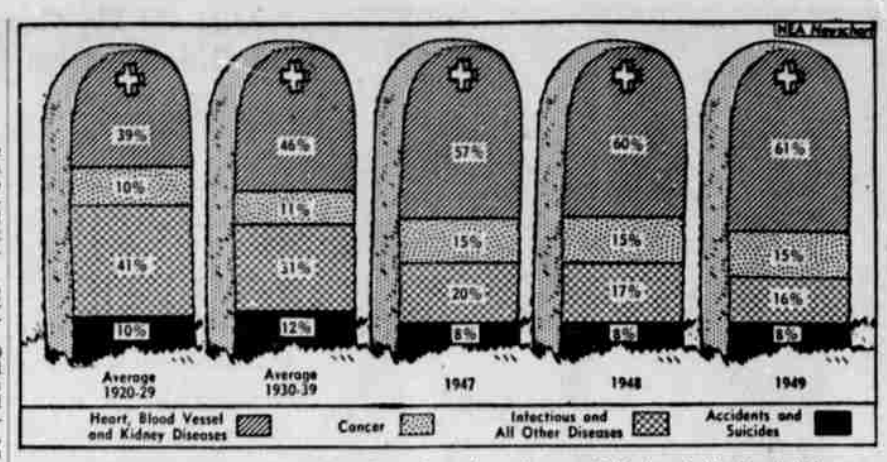
Additional carloads of American military equipment are now piling up at east coast ports for shipment to other Western European nations.

Gunshot Wound Kills Seattle Cartoonist

SEATTLE, March 21.—(AP)—Sam Groff, widely known Seattle Times cartoonist, was found dead of a gunshot wound in his Hunts Point home here Monday.

Coroner John P. Brill said Groff had been shot through the chest, apparently accidentally while cleaning a pistol. The artist has been on leave of absence from the Times for more than a year because of ill health.

His pen and ink cartoonings of the Seattle baseball team of the Pacific Coast league were widely known in the Northwest.



CAUSES OF DEATH—The Newschart above shows how diseases of the heart, blood and kidneys have grown as major causes of death—from 39% in the Twenties to 61% in 1949—while deaths from infectious and other diseases have declined. The development of "miracle drugs" to curb infectious diseases, and the fact that people live longer now, accounts for the rise of diseases associated with old age.

White Man On Trial In Killing Of Three Negroes

KOSCIUSKO, Miss., March 20—(AP) —A white ex-convict goes on trial today for the massacre of three Negro children.

Thirty-eight-year-old Leon Turner is accused of shooting to death Nell Harris, 4, Mary Burnside, 8, and Frankie Thurman, 12, in their home near here shortly before midnight last Jan. 8.

District Attorney Henry Rodgers said he would ask the death penalty. In Mississippi, the death penalty — carried out in the electric chair — is rare for a white man charged with murdering a Negro.

Rodgers described the slaughter as "a drunken orgy of revenge."

Last week Windol Whitt, 24, also accused in the three slayings, was convicted of the murder of the Harris child and was given a life prison sentence. A brother, Malcolm Whitt, 27, under similar charges, is slated to go on trial March 27.

In Windol Whitt's trial, the Whitt brothers testified that Turner alone entered the Negro home and come out declaring he "had killed the whole damn bunch of them." Turner did not testify. State witnesses said Windol Whitt, armed with a shotgun, blocked the victims' escape.

The parent of the slain children, Thomas Harris, 27, told the jury that a bullet from Turner's gun shattered his spine. Harris said he lay halpless on the kitchen floor while Ruby Nell pleaded for water. The child died after officers arrived about dawn. The other victims were his step-children.

Another step-daughter, Verline Thurman, 14, testified in Windol Whitt's trial that Whitt flushed her from under the house and that Turner shot her. She has recovered from two bullet wounds.

Harris' wife, Mary Ella, clutching an infant, ran out a side door, shoved aside a gun barrel and fled into the darkness.

Rodgers said the three white men had forcibly entered the Harris home and had attempted to rape the negro woman on Dec. 22.

After the Dec. 22 foray, the white men escaped from jail. The Jan. 8 slaughter, Rodgers said, was prompted by a mistaken idea that the Harris family had caused the arrest of the trio.

Malcolm Whitt surrendered the day after the shooting. The other two were taken after a 57-hour manhunt. Bloodhounds handled by Clarence Mullins, state prison trusty, led a posse to the potato hut where Windol Whitt and Turner were hiding. Turner was slightly wounded when Mullins fired into the hut.

Pay Increase Advised For Portland Employes

PORTLAND, March 21.—(AP)—A $426,288 pay increase for 3,230 city employes was recommended to the Portland city council today.

The recommendation came from a city survey service agency hired by the city to study the situation The increase would bring Portland in line with other west coast cities, the agency reported.

Increases would range from $5 to $100 monthly. The average would be $11 a month more.

Burned Spokane Hotel To Be Rebuilt Soon

SPOKANE, March 21—(AP)—Owners of the burned out Ridpath hotel are working on tentative plans for rebuilding the structure at a cost of more than $1,000,000.

Thomas Gose of Walla Walla, representative of the Ridpath estate, told the Chronicle in a telephone interview that it may take from three to five months to prepare definite plans.

The Ridpath was all but destroyed by a fire which started early in the evening Feb. 28, and was controlled the next morning. Damage was estimated at $1,000,000. That figure has not been confirmed by the owners.

Gose said the tentative plans call for an eight-story building with approximately 200 rooms on the same downtown site as the old building.

Sentenced To Die, Man Only Laughs

NEW YORK, March 21 —(AP)— Convicted wife slayer Lewis Wolfe broke into peals of laughter Monday when sentenced to die in the electric chair the week of April 23.

The wealthy 42-year-old Montreal contractor was sentenced by Kings County Judge Louis Goldstein, who had adjudged him sane.

Permitted to address the court before sentencing, Wolfe spoke incoherently of his "beautiful love" for his slain wife and of voices that "whispered" to him on the night she was bludgeoned to death with a steel-tipped shoe.

"No jury in the world would call me insane," Wolfe said, agreeing with the sanity finding of Judge Goldstein.

Wolfe was convicted of first degree murder for slaying his acress wife in 1944. The state charged that he did it in a fit of rage when she confessed infidelity.

Portland Bank Takes Meadows Race Track

PORTLAND, March 21. — (AP) — The First National bank of Portland took over the $2,000,000 Portland Meadows horse race track at a sheriff's sale here Monday.

The bank ocquired the plant with the only bid submitted. It was for $476,092. The sale resulted from mortgage foreclosure proceedings, started by the bank.

William P. Kyne, California racing promoter who built the track in 1946, made no bid, but said he would talk with bank officials later about a possible lease for racing this season.

Copper, coal and silver are leading products of Utah mines.

GIs Punished For Kidnapping Deal With Reds

SALZBURG, Austria, March 20. —(AP)—Two American soldiers were sentenced to long prison terms Friday after being convicted of kidnapping a Romanian-born mystery man and handing him over to the Russians for pay.

Cpl. Paul Abel of Bolivar, Mo., was given 20 years at hard labor and Sgt. John Frankey of New York City 15 years. Both also were ordered dishonorably discharged from the Army and to forfeit all pay and allowances.

The verdict and sentences were announced by Col. M. Tharr of San Antonio, Texas, president of the court-martial which heard the case.

A detailed confession by Abel, in which he described how their victim, Oswald Elder, was kidnapped, was read to the court.

The confession said Eder was taken from his home in an army jeep by Abel and Frankey and handed over to five Russians near an old factory outside Vienna. They were paid 7,000 Austrain schillings (about $700).

The prosecution has described Eder as a mysterious former soldier in the Germany army who has been suspected by several nations of spying.

Belgian Strike Protests Return Of King Leopold

BRUSSELS, Belgium, March 20 — (AP) —Dock and shipyard workers at Belgium's largest port, Antwerp, quit work today to back up the Socialist fight against King Leopold's proposed return to Belgium.

In Brussels, Premier Gaston Eyskens began negotiations seeking a solution to the political crisis precipitated when his cabinet resigned Saturday.

Eyskens seeks a new coalition which will call a joint session of parliament to vote Leopold's return from exile.

But Leopold's chief opponents, former Premier Spaak's Socialists, announced yesterday they would call waves of strikes until Leopold abdicates in favor of his son, 19-year-old prince Baubouin. Socialists criticize Leopold's surrender to the Germans in World War two.

The Liberals brought on the cabinet's fall when they refused to join the Social Christians in sponsoring a parliamentary session to invite Leopold back to his throne. The king a week ago won 57.68 percent of the vote in a country-wide advisory referendum, held to advise parliament of the popular feeling with regard to Leopold's proposed return.

Public Hospital Issue Likely To Go On Ballot

FOREST GROVE, March 21.—(AP)—Sponsors of a public hospital proposed for Western Washington county said today the issue probably will be on the May 19 primary ballot.

Chairman Joseph M. Loomis said petitions calling for a vote on the proposition now have 1,500 names. Signatures of 1,031 registered voters are needed.

The proposal to construct the public hospital at Forest Grove is opposed by the Washington County Medical society, which contends hospital service available at Hillsboro now is sufficient.

Utah became a state in 1896, the 45th to be admitted to the Union.

Horsemeat Stored As Beef Tenderloin Seized

CHICAGO, March 21, —(AP)— Seisure of 12,000 pounds of horsemeat stored here as beef tenderloin was reported Monday.

The seizure was announced by Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, president of the city board of health, which impounded the meat March 10 in cooperation with the state health department and the federal Food and Drug administration.

Dr. O. W. Seber, inspector in charge of the Chicago federal meat inspecting station, said the horsemeat was shipped to Chicago from Southbend, Ind., by truck, in boxes marked "tenderloin." He said it was stored as "beef tenderloin" and that government labels had been removed.

4-Wheel Drive Vehicle Medford Man's Device

MEDFORD, March 20 — (AP) — A new four-wheel drive vehicle has appeared here.

Ivventor E. M. Tucker, presi-Inventor E. M. Tucker, presi-is the envy of motorists having parking problems in small spaces. Tucker's latest machine steers all wheels. It is fast on curves and he claims it is almost impossible to overturn.

He plans production in the fall. The first model is a work machine. Tucker ultimately hopes to turn out an automobile type model.

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