

Former Air Officer Tells Of Russo-German Front

By Bud Bradley

Last term, while most of us were spending our Easter vacations at home, First Lt. Bob Hamil, former GI navigation officer with the 15th air force, was spending Easter-tide roaming the plains of southern Hungary. During the last few months of the war, the 15th air force was busy pulverizing the communications between the Austrian capital and the Russo-German front. Bob has 26 bombing missions to his credit, the principal targets being Vienna, Lintz, Graz, Innsbruck and Salzburg in German-held Austria. For the accuracy of these missions, he wears the air medal, two oak leaf clusters and four battle stars.

Motors Shot Away

It was on a bombing run over Lintz, Austria, that the plane in which he was flying was badly crippled. German anti-aircraft batteries had shot away two of the plane's four motors. To return to their base in Italy, they would have to climb very high to avoid crashing into the Austrian Alps, but this was impossible with two

motors shot away. Their best hope lay in reaching the Russo-German miles west of Budapest.

"Our radio had been knocked out during the fighting, and we were unable to gain contact with our Liberator squadron, so we headed for Hungary hoping against hope that we might not fall into German hands," the brown eyed veteran remarked.

Inviting Target

A lone Liberator, flying at 7000 feet is a beautiful target for enemy fighter planes and anti-aircraft batteries, so Lieutenant Hamil set a course over thinly-populated areas. The B-24 crossed the Hungarian border about one hundred miles southeast of Vienna.

"As we approached the Russo-German lines, we could see the distant flashes of artillery fire," Hamil said. "Over the line, we were fired at by both Russian and German ack ack guns," the smiling veteran added.

The plains of southern Hungary looked very inviting, so the crew decided on a crash landing. The crash of the bomber caused considerable excitement, and many of the local townspeople of near-by Pecs rushed out to see the American flyers. Shortly after, Russian officers arrived on the scene, and took over the situation.

In Russian Hands

At first the Russians thought they would send the air men to Bucharest, but decided on Budapest instead. The trip to Budapest, which in normal times is an overnight journey, took 19 days, most of which were spent on a railroad siding, as the Russians were moving troops up to the front near Vienna at the same time.

Bob reports that despite the war, Budapest is still beautiful, though travel through the city is extremely difficult as all the bridges over the Danube are out. After an enjoyable holiday in Budapest, Lt. Hamil and his crew returned to Italy, just in time to see the end of the war in Europe.

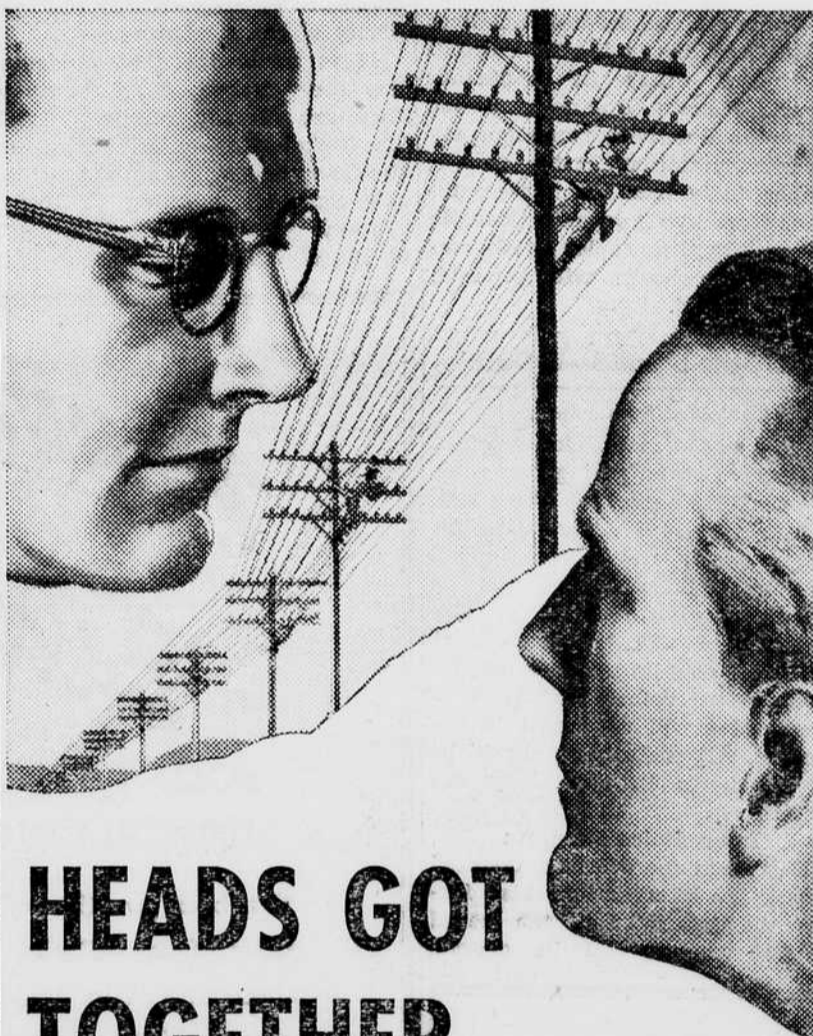
Bob is a native of Portland, where he attended both Benson and Washington high schools. In September of 1941 he entered Oregon State college, and joined the air corps in April 1942. As for



Suzanne Miller, senior at University high school, smilingly receives her \$25 Victory bond she won as first prize in the Register-Guard's recent essay contest on Freedom of the Press from George Turnbull, acting dean of the school of journalism. Scene of the award dinner was the Eugene Hotel where prizes were awarded for Lane county winners in the 7th to 12th grades inclusive. Professor Turnbull acted as chairman of the judging committee which also included Mrs. Lucille Kennedy, county school superintendent, and Dr. Henry M. Gunn, Eugene school superintendent. (Jack Lamb photo, Wiltshire engraving). (Courtesy Register Guard).

this year at OSC, he asks his fellow Ducks to forgive him, for he was just a poor misguided soul at the time.

The measure of a man's true character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out.



HEADS GOT TOGETHER

RESULT: MORE TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEPHONE CIRCUITS

With wire scarce and wartime calls increasing, telephone engineers made existing pairs of long distance wires carry nearly four times as many calls as before. This was done through installation of additional carrier equipment, requiring closer spacing of the wires on the line and transpositions at shorter intervals.

Three pairs on the Southern Transcontinental Route were rearranged, and in a 430-mile section this had to be done while keeping the urgently needed wires in service all the time. To do this, new tools and new methods had to be devised in the laboratories and on the job.

This is another among many examples of how Bell System teamwork and engineering skills maintained telephone service under wartime conditions.

BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM



Alpha, Delts Elect

Arlo Calkins, junior in business, was elected president of Thacher, campus chapter of Alpha Delta Sigma, national advertising honorary, at its first fall meeting, held Tuesday. Fred Welty, junior in journalism, was elected secretary-treasurer.

"The chapter is being re-activated to fill the needs of students interested in advertising as a career and in its relation to improving business practices. We hope to have various advertising men from Portland and Eugene to address the monthly meetings of the society," said R. D. Millican, adviser.

A rush dinner will be held next Wednesday evening at 6:30 at the Del Rey cafe, when the club's complement will be raised to the normal level of twenty members.

In addition to the usual social activities, the society's tentative plans call for the formation of a separate advertising club sponsored by the chapter during the spring term.

Captain Davis Visits

Captain Bob Davis, formerly of the ROTC here, was in Eugene Wednesday. Bob is now in the auditing department of the Night Service command in Salt Lake City.

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