

Lee G. Miller

Travel in Mined Waters Makes Writer Uneasy

By LEE G. MILLER

ABOARD A CRUISER IN THE CELEBES SEA (By Wireless)—The destroyer on which I was spending D-day minus one finally ceased firing, and we were just hanging around near Tarkanan beach in case the Aussie engineers blowing up obstacles close inshore needed further support from our guns.

Then the word was passed that the channel through which we had approached, and which had been combed and recombined by our minesweepers, had just yielded more mines and we should stay "inside" pending further search.

One mine it developed had turned up just 25 yards from the course we had followed earlier.

Everybody began to look a little more serious. This destroyer has seen elsewhere what a mine could do. And it would be small consolation if we struck one of our mines—for our forces had mined these waters months ago to inhibit Jap shipping. The sweeps hadn't yet accounted for quite all the number known to have been sowed.

While we waited, I got acquainted with some of the destroyer crew. Signalman (first class) William J. Richardson took a lot of pains helping me figure out how to look through one of those long telescopes with a single eyepiece—you know, the kind ancient mariners are always pictured with.

It's quite a trick to adjust the thing to the particular conformation of your face, and my eyes seem to be wider spaced than most. So Bill's recommendation that I rest the scope against the bridge of my nose didn't work out. But finally we figured the thing out.

Bill is attached to Commodore Eob Martin's staff. He comes from Trenton, but now his wife and 2-year-old son live in Poughkeepsie. He's been in this destroyer division nearly three years.

He showed me how his signal flags work. There's a flag for every letter and number, but no extras. When you want to use a letter the second time in the same signal you hoist one of several repeaters, one meaning repeat the preceding letter, another meaning repeat the second letter above, et cetera. Corpen means the course pennant, and it's hoisted above the flags giving the code numbers for a new course. Negate simply means "signals over"—that is, if somebody changes his mind the negate is hoisted to cancel the signals.

Bill introduced me to torpedo man (second class) Howard M. Peterson of Spokane, Wash., quartermaster (second class) Wilbert Horst of Lodi, Calif., and quartermaster (first class) R. A. Looman, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Looman of Indianapolis.

Commodore Martin suddenly exclaimed: "The — — — has hit a mine." But it turned out that a sweep had exploded a mine just ahead of the destroyer he referred to, and it only looked as if the smoke was coming from the destroyer. The incident didn't tend to relax us.

I talked with Lieut. Donald C. Sinclair, the destroyer's gunnery officer, a blond who burns easily, especially when spending hours with his head protruding from the range finder tower in a tropic sun. He had zinc ointment plastered on his lips. Sinclair attended Hiram College. He was assigned to this destroyer before she was commissioned, about three years ago. He knows the idiosyncrasies of his guns plenty well.

About 35 officers and men of the destroyer's original crew are still with her, I was told by one of them, Ensign Walter Smudzin, 26, of Shamokin, Pa., who was feeding rice to "GQ" the ship's mascot.

Smudzin is the ship wit. One of the crew said Smudzin couldn't open his mouth without getting a laugh. He worked in coal mines before enlisting seven years ago. Now he's the destroyer's electrical officer.

"I've been on this ship since she was commissioned," he said. "And I'm going to put her in red lead row too." He meant he expected to be with her when she was given a coating of anti-rust paint and tucked away in some river back home after the war.

I went to the wardroom for coffee, and Jack Howard brought out a copy of Lincoln Bennett's life piece about Ernie Pyle, which I thought an excellent job. Some of the quotes in it were from Ernie's letters to me. I guess my office must have dug them out. Ice cream was brought in—triple scoops of it—and stories were told, and we had a good time, though we were still worry-



Imbler Students To Be Honored At Commencement

IMBLER, May 15 (Special)—Among the students who will be honored at the commencement exercises at 8:15 o'clock this evening in Wade Hall will be Shirley Hibberd, Duane Schwabke, Leon Paroz and Don Hill.

Miss Hibberd, president of the girls' league, will receive the student council bronze award for school spirit.

Schwabke, two-year letterman in baseball, will receive the medal for outdoor life.

Paroz, a track letterman, won distinction in shop work.

Hill has been active in dramatics and received the student council honor for that activity. He also has been an active member of the boys' glee club.

Commencement speaker will be Ray Hawk, research director for the Oregon State Teachers' association.

Report to Congress Confirms Tales of Nazi Atrocities

(Continued from Page 1) SS troops and the gestapo either acting under orders from superiors or "given wide discretion in the methods they were to adopt in perpetrating these hideous and inhuman sufferings."

No Americans Imprisoned He reassured the senate at the outset that American prisoners of war were not incarcerated in any of the concentration camps. "No prisoners of war are confined in any of these political prisoner camps," he said, "and there is no relationship whatever between a concentration camp for political prisoners and camp for prisoners of war."

He said the committee based its conclusions upon three classes of evidence: Personal inspection, testimony of eyewitnesses among the prisoners and "common knowledge of the camp"—things not actually seen by the prisoners but which they all knew to be true from circumstantial evidence.

He said rumor, hearsay and every other doubtful form of information or testimony had been carefully excluded. "Those reading the report may be assured that everything therein described was either actually seen by us or reported to us by competent and reliable eyewitnesses or that it is based on circumstantial evidence which we have considered to be as trustworthy as direct evidence itself."

Torture Witnesses Missing Bodily tortures were not described because "eyewitnesses to the proceedings in the torture chambers seem always to have been done away with."

He said the committee saw with its own eyes:

"The barracks, the work places, the physical facilities for torture, degradation and execution."

"The victims, both dead and alive, of the atrocities practiced at these camps."

"The progress of liquidation by starvation which was still going on."

"We saw the indescribable filth and stench of the nauseating stench before it was cleaned up, and we saw a number of victims of this liquidation process actually die."

Barkley said the worst-treated prisoners were Jews, Russians and Poles. He said the committee was of the opinion that a colossal scheme of extermination was planned and put into effect against all those in occupied countries who refused to accept the principles of nazism, or who opposed the saddling of the Nazi yoke on their countries.

The number of prisoners and slave-laborers, he said, is estimated to run between 12,000,000 and 20,000,000. Principal classes imprisoned and exterminated were "the intelligentsia, college professors, army generals, business leaders, and professional men."

ing about the mines. But eventually we got back to the open sea without mishap.

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Award of the air medal to two La Grande members of Flying Fortress crews of the 8th air force stationed in Fortress crews based in England is announced by headquarters of the 8th air force, received in La Grande today.

Receiving the decorations were Staff Sergeant Howard A. Bay, 19, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Bay, 1217 A avenue, and Tech. Sgt. Donald Gentry, 23, whose wife, Lorena is a resident of La Grande.

Bay is a tail gunner in the 96th bombardment group, and Gentry a top turret gunner in the 452nd bombardment group. Both were decorated for operational activities against targets in Germany.

Under date of April 12, another communication was received today from the 8th air force, announcing the assignment of Sgt. Edwin Isaac of La Grande to the 493rd bombardment group for pre-combat training as a Flying Fortress gunner.

After participating in the battle of Cassino and the assault on the Gothic line in Italy, Pvt. Darwin C. Keenan, the son of Mrs. Fern E. Keenan of Imbler, has recently been working with a contingent of army engineers which has been maintaining military highways in Italy. He has been overseas more than 24 months.

Lt. Merlin A. Bullard of La Grande, an ordnance department officer, has been transferred to the Augusta arsenal after a 14-month tour of the south and southwest Pacific areas, on which he covered 100,000 miles and visited 27 bases.

As a trouble shooter for anti-aircraft instruments and guns on the firing line, he assisted the men in making adjustments and repairs. He participated in the invasion of the Philippines at Lingayen gulf, and at Bougainville and wears the Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon with an arrowhead and two campaign stars, and the Philippine liberation ribbon with one bronze star.

Mrs. Bullard, the former Edith Ruth Baxter, and their three children, Monte, Sally and Stanley, are making their home in La Grande while he is in the service. He has been in the service three years and prior to his military service he was a watchmaker and optician.

Railroad Promotes Former Local Man

E. D. Burke, former district foreman of the Union Pacific railroad in La Grande, has been appointed assistant master mechanic at Cheyenne, Wyo.

Announcement of the promotion in Omaha yesterday, says Burke replaces C. T. Armstrong, who has been transferred to North Platte, Neb., in the same capacity. Burke has been employed by the railroad since 1916, when he began as a messenger in Laramie, Wyo. He became district foreman here in March, 1943.

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Coasting Along

By GENE FRIEDMAN United Press Staff Correspondent

LOS ANGELES, May 15 (UP)—A star-studded field of 11 today was named for the Charles W. Paddock 100-meter memorial race, feature event of the fifth annual Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum invitation track and field meet.

Bill Frady, California Institute of Technology; George Beaman and Bill Eagle, University of Southern California; Jack Boyd, Bob Norton and Jack Brown, University of California at Los Angeles, will vie with Cal Jacobs and Bill Smith of Los Angeles City college, Don Peterson of Glendale Junior college, Francisco Sabichi of Pomona college and Norm Courtney of Occidental.

All the collegiate sprinters named are the best in the southland this year, but speedsters Jacobs and Peterson may show their heels to their older competitors.

Last year in the first Paddock memorial race Edsel Curry, Southern California, and Tom Carter, Caltech, ran a dead heat for first in 11.1.

Also on tap in the streamlined meet, designed to provide excitement usually slowed down by lengthy field events, are the 880-yard run, the mile run, the high hurdles, the high jump, the broad jump, the shot put and the four-man mile relay.

Bob Chambers, naval armory, Henry William, unattached, Ken Shauer, Cal Tech, Warren Smith, Olympic club, and John Anderson, Southern California are expected to stage a free-for-all in the half mile.

Top contestants in the mile are art Nash of the San Diego navy and George Gill of Cal Tech. In the high hurdles, Southern California, Bob Morris is favored to show his heels to the field.

Smith and Bell appear the pick of the field in the broad jump, while Southern California's Earl Audet will definitely outclass the shot put field. Cal Tech's strong mile relay team looks too good in that event.

None of the meet records appear to be in any danger of being broken unless Audet, who has been somewhat below par this year, shatters his tremendous 54 foot 9 1/2 inch record in the shot put set in 1943.

Athletic Awards Are Given Boys Of Riveria School

Thirty-five boys of Riveria school were presented with letters for athletic achievements of the year at the recent meeting of the Riveria parent-teacher association. Awards were made by John Bennett and Vernon Knowles.

Recipients of the letters were: Raymond Winterton, Floyd Cade, Kenneth Garrett, Jack Fuller, Jim Barrus, Lyle Trotter, Kenneth Landers, Jack Thompson, Douglas Kirkland, Billy Williamson, Loyce Pierce, Charles Steine, Leslie Rogers, Linn Sirrine, Bill West, Louis Hater, Marland Mortier, Ralph Winterton, George Hutchison, Edwin Meyer, Richard Hauffman, Russell Ridick, Eddie Davis, Gerald Summerfield, Billy Wagner, Earl Meyers, Jim Bromberg, Allen Clark, Kermit Stein, Orland Dixon, Norman Trotter, William Barrus, Robin Williamson, Jack Keller and Buster Winburn.

Officers for the coming year were installed by Mrs. John Bennett and Mrs. Reid Blacker. Mrs. C. E. Bramer, past president, was presented with a potted plant in appreciation of her work during the past year.

Mrs. Beatrice Young's first grade class presented a play and refreshments were served by Mrs. Kenneth Workman and Mrs. Walter Sinclair and their committee.

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Among the students to be honored at Imbler high school's commencement tonight are those pictured here, left to right: Duane Schwabke, Shirley Hibberd, and Leon Paroz.

Two Homers By Reyes Give Giants Victory Over Cubs

NEW YORK, May 15 (UP)—The happiest guy in town today was ageless Mel Ott, the little Giant who has high hopes at last of rewarding his loyal legion of fans with a National league pennant.

His team, with 17 victories in 22 starts, is off to the best getaway for the league since Cincinnati won the pennant in 1940 and there are no indications of crack-up.

There are plenty of factors to account for the upsurge, but the biggest is a terrorizing display of home runs and extra base power. That was the case yesterday when the Giants won their ninth game in the last 10, beating the well regarded Chicago Cubs, 6 to 5, on two homers by Nap Reyes which accounted for four of the runs.

Voiselle Gets Credit The game went into extra innings and Phil Weintraub had to break it up with a single in the 10th which scored Ray Treadway from second. Bill Voiselle, who won his fifth game Saturday, came back in a relief stint to gain credit for his sixth win without a defeat, putting him on top in both leagues.

When it isn't Reyes, it's one of the other long-range artists who is likely to deliver the winning punch with homer. To date, the Giants, led by Ott himself with six, have hit 26 homers compared with 55 hits by all other league teams combined. They're far ahead of the 1944 timetable when they had only 10 homers at this time and didn't get their 26th until June 4.

Dodgers Beat Pirates The second place Dodgers kept on winning at Brooklyn, making it nine straight by defeating the Pirates, 4 to 1, in LeRoy Prund's major league starting debut. A triple, a double and a single by Fred (Dixie) Walker provided the backbone of the batting punch. The Dodgers got only six hits in all off El (Preacher) Roe.

At Philadelphia, the Cincinnati Reds cashed in on three errors to score four unearned runs in the fourth and won, 5 to 4. Ex-service man Al Bosser, with relief help from Walter (Boom Boom) Beck, won his first big league victory. Bosser got by although he gave 10 walks. The Reds made 11 hits.

All American league games were rained out and St. Louis at Boston in the National moved up their game to create a double bill Wednesday.

Title Match Hopes Of Robinson Upset

PHILADELPHIA, May 15 (UP)—Out of the ranks of lightly rated fighters came Jose Basora today to spoil the plans of Ray (Sugar) Robinson, the Harlem battler, who until last night had been a sure-shot for a title bout with welterweight champion Freddie Cochrane.

A 1 to 5 underdog in the batting, Basora fought Robinson to a 10-round draw at Convention hall last night and there were many among the 14,653 fans who thought he should have had the decision.

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ACE CARD — Freckled Red Schoendienst of the St. Louis Cardinals is the most talented and colorful new major league player. Starting in left field, the 22-year-old product of Germantown, Ill., who could double for Huckleberry Finn, filled in highly acceptably at shortstop when Sless McInnis twisted his ankle before going out himself with a dislocated shoulder.

Baseball Standings

By United Press

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W.	L.	Pct.
Chicago	12	6	.667
New York	13	7	.650
Detroit	11	7	.611
St. Louis	9	9	.500
Washington	10	12	.455
Philadelphia	9	12	.429
Boston	8	12	.400
Cleveland	6	13	.315

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W.	L.	Pct.
New York	17	5	.773
Brooklyn	14	6	.700
Chicago	10	9	.526
St. Louis	9	10	.476
Pittsburgh	9	11	.450
Boston	8	10	.444
Cincinnati	7	11	.389
Philadelphia	5	17	.227

PACIFIC COAST	W.	L.	Pct.
Portland	30	13	.698
Seattle	23	18	.561
Oakland	23	20	.533
San Diego	22	22	.500
Los Angeles	21	23	.477
Sacramento	20	22	.476
San Francisco	20	23	.465
Hollywood	12	30	.286

hall last night and there were many among the 14,653 fans who thought he should have had the decision.

Howard Entry Is Favorite in Santa Anita Opener

ARCADIA, Calif., May 15 (UP)—Civil Code, Charles S. Howard's long-legged sprinter, carrying top weight at 118 pounds, was favored to win today's featured \$5000 Anita Chiquita race in the first running of the Santa Anita race track since March, 1941.

The speedy son of Fair Trial is regarded as slightly superior to others in the field of 10 competing in the six furlong sixth race. The event is considered a tuneup for Saturday's 25,000 added San Gabriel handicap at the same distance.

Running with the favorite are Carl Dupuy's Rover, 108; Mrs. J. B. Burnstein's Gold Mike, 110; Mrs. Clyde Phillips' Vain Prince, 114; Armstrong stable's Bullpen, 110; Fair Acres farm's First to Fight, 112; Circle V, stable's Bizerre, 108; Emel Schwartzhaupt's Pukka Gin, 112; Abraham Hirschberg's Black Badge, 112, and Mrs. George Pulsen's B Broadcloth, 112.

Howard's thoroughbred won the feature race in the opening day at Hollywood park last year, in Southern California's last race before the government ban.

Big Crowd Expected About 50,000 turf enthusiasts were expected in the stands for the first competition at the track since the army took over shortly after Pearl Harbor. It was used as a Japanese internment camp and later as an ordnance base. The racing plant was prepared for an opening last December, 30 after the army mobilized it to its owners, but War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes' edict cancelled that.

Most of the country's outstanding horses, already numbering upwards of 1300, will be on hand for the season, which boasts 10 stakes of \$25,000 or more. Highlights are the \$100,000 Santa Anita handicap, the \$50,000 Santa Margarita handicap, the \$50,000 Santa Anita derby and the season-closing \$50,000 San Juan Capistrano handicap.

GODOY YWINS ON KO WASHINGTON, May 15 (UP)—Chilean heavyweight Arturo Godoy was closer to his comeback goal of a title bout with champion Joe Louis today after a fifth round knockout over Buddy Walker of Columbus, O., last night.

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