

Lee G. Miller

'Easy' Life On Cruiser Surprises 'Sweep' Officers

By LEE G. MILLER

ABOARD A CRUISER IN THE SULLY SEA (By Wireless)—You meet lots of interesting people on a warship this size. Not only among her own personnel of many more than a thousand, but when she's anchored she has visitors.

A couple of young lieutenants from a minesweeper, for instance. They were practically goggled at the comforts available on this big ship, compared to the isolated Spartan life of those plucky, unpretty little craft that must make the first penetration of invasion waters.

The visitors were Lawrence L. Everley of Herington, Kans., executive officer of his sweep, and Millard E. Emanuelson of Saco, Me., its gunnery and communications officer.

Everley's wife, who is attending Baker university at Baldwin, Kans., will be sorry to hear he's lost the wedding ring she gave him. It wasn't his fault, Mrs. Everley. The only reason he wasn't wearing it was he had had a little infection or fungus on his finger.

Emanuelson used to teach science and coach athletics at Deering high school, Portland, Me.

Those little sweeps carry four officers and 30-odd men. There's a dangerous life. As someone said, "There's not much future in it." Nor much fun, either, aside from the close comradeship of long association among a small group of men.

"Recreation is what the crew needs worst," Everley said. "When we're back at base we don't even have a boat for taking the men ashore to the movies. Once in a while we can beg a boat from a bigger ship."

"We've even run out of drinking water," said Emanuelson. "We've got facilities for evaporating sea water, but the machine has to be cleaned from time to time, and then we're apt to run short."

I asked how they happened to choose minesweeper duty. "We are all volunteers," said Emanuelson. "My wife didn't think so much of it."

Everley said his wife figured that if this was what he wanted she guessed she could stand it.

Or take my friends Lieut. Virgil Lightfoot of High Point, N. C., and Warrant Officer Alston L. Richardson of Long Beach, Calif., (he's my roommate) and Warrant Machinist Oliver Kirby of Norfolk. They're navy old-timers up from the ranks, as are many others on our ship. And they know the ways and lore of the navy better than many of the newer, younger men of higher rank.

The majority of the personnel on a modern warship are concerned with techniques that have little to do with old-fashioned seamanship—fire control, radio communications, electronics, aviation and innumerable specialties.

It's a pleasure to watch Lightfoot's lean figure dominating some purely nautical business such as lowering a whaleboat or securing lines to a destroyer that wants to "take a drink." (That is, to take on fuel oil from us). Or bringing up injured men in

OUR MEN IN SERVICE

First Lt. Willard W. Jones, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Vernon Jones, Irigoin, recently received the distinguished flying cross in Italy for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight in the Mediterranean and North African theaters. Jones is a co-pilot with a fifth AAF bomb group, a veteran of 29 combat missions.

Lieutenant Jones attended Eastern Oregon college and was a member of the championship basketball team taken to Kansas City by Coach Bob Quinn.

Merton Childers, Seabee, is home from the south Pacific, coming here from Guam. Before entering the service, Childers was employed by Union Pacific railroad.

Pfc. Howard C. Webb is here on furlough from Mather field visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Webb. Upon return to his base he will be assigned to duty in the Pacific. His wife, who lives in The Dalles, accompanied him.

Sgt. Gene Culver of Baker, recently returned from three years service in the Europe and who has been visiting friends in Baker, was in La Grande today. He participated in the France, Belgium, Holland and Germany campaigns with the 9th army. His father, Charles P. Culver, resides in Portland.

Glen E. Alford of Joseph has been accepted for enlistment in the navy and has returned home to await the call to active duty. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Alford, who have two other sons in the army and one in the navy.

BRIGHT PLANET

The planet Venus is so brilliant in July that it can be seen in broad daylight, and, after sunset, it actually casts a shadow.

"Stokes litters" for our doctors to tend. Lightfoot used to be the cruiser's chief boatwain. He showed me his shins and they're scarred from knee to ankle from a hundred collisions with obstacles during hurried rushes to his station in emergencies.

That transfer of injured men was interesting. They'd been severely burned on the arms and had been brought five or 10 miles in a whaleboat through dark and choppy waters.

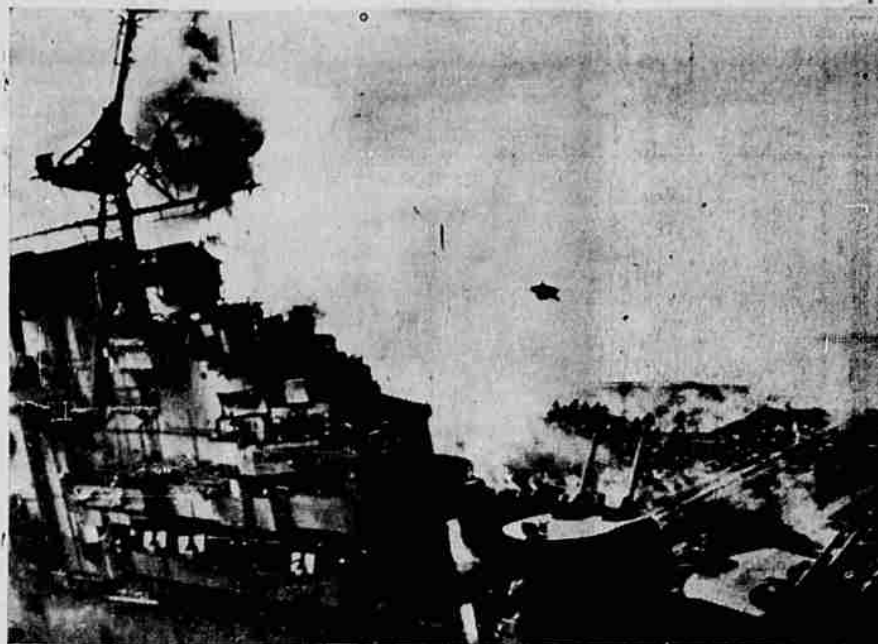
It was an eerie spectacle from the fantail—after-end of the main deck. Scores of men were sprawled there asleep—driven from their bunks below decks by suffocating heat. The airplanes lowered on their catapults. There was no light except from the moon and the stars, and as we waited, the ship's dentist, Lieut. A. L. Russell of Philip, S. D., was giving me a lesson in astronomy.

He hadn't got farther than the Southern Cross, and how to tell from it your approximate distance from the equator, when a small boat came dimly into view.

Two still, sheet-covered forms lay in her bottom. Ropes and Stokes litters were lowered. The boatwain's whistle began making those infinitely various sounds, unintelligible to laymen—and to many of the ship's company—and the big crane swung around into position.

The officers and men crowded the rail as the two injured were hoisted aboard one at a time, moving their heads a bit nervously. I thought who wouldn't, dangling out there alone and helpless in the dark.

Ready hands carried them off to surgery, and I'm glad to report they're doing fine.



U. S. S. FRANKLIN IS JAP DIVE BOMBER VICTIM—Upper, debris is hurled into the air by explosions between decks of the aircraft carrier U. S. S. Franklin after she was hit by two 500-pound bombs from a Jap dive bomber on March 19, 60 miles off the coast of Japan. Below, guns of the battered Franklin continue to fire although the turret is wreathed in flames.

Carrier Franklin Reaches Port After Pacific Disaster

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its bomb and rocket stores exposed. In the hours of her ordeal, 200,000 pounds of the carrier's own bombs, rockets and ammunition blew up, and an estimated 12,000 gallons of high octane aviation gasoline either burned in cascades of flame or exploded in volcanic eruptions.

Of the ship's complement of more than 2,500 sailors and men of air group 13, many scores died in a flash. Other hundreds were blown into the sea, where many drowned. Fire, fumes and smoke trapped and killed still others below decks.

Hundreds Are Saved

Heroic rescue work, brilliant seamanship, and incredibly efficient damage control operations saved many hundreds. At least 706 of the crew survived to sail the carrier from the scene of disaster, and other hundreds of sailors and airmen were removed and kept in the Pacific.

The Japanese reported Big Ben sunk, and the navy admits that "she should by all accounts have gone to the bottom."

But Big Ben refused to die. For seven hours packed with deeds of heroism unrivaled in this war she lay dead in the water. For nine hours she had no communications, no electricity, no drinkable water. For 15 hours fires burned in Niagara of flaming gasoline at first; in smoldering, fume-generating pockets at the last.

Drifts Near Japan

Before Big Ben came to life again and shook off the tow lines of friendly ships, she had drifted within 38 miles of the Japanese home island of Shikoku. At one time, a time of horror for men trapped below decks, she listed 20 degrees and seemed to be on the verge of capsizing.

But Big Ben refused to die—because her skipper, 47-year-old Capt. Leslie E. Gores of Coronado, Calif., said "I won't abandon this ship," because her crew would not be cowed by death; because her officers and men, those that lived, did all the right things at the right times.

Another reason Big Ben lives is that she had a friend standing by, the gallant light cruiser Santa Fe. With the crippled carrier listing seriously, Capt. H. C. Fitz put the Santa Fe alongside to take off wounded and survivors. In so doing, the Santa Fe shared the Big Ben's mortal danger because, as the carrier reported later, "we were still blowing up in all directions."

Children's Library Hours Are Set

Miss Mabel Doty, city librarian, today announced that because of the vacation season, the children's library will be closed every day between noon and 1:30 p.m.

The boys' and girls' room will be open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except during the early afternoon closing hours, and the story hour will be conducted at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Coasting Along

By HAL WOOD United Press Staff Correspondent

By Robert Weide United Press Staff Correspondent
COMPTON, Calif., May 18 (UP)—Bill Shleibau, that ever-winning baseball coach from Compton college, is ready for the draft now. And he'll go without a single peep.

No battle could ever be worse, he figures, than the four-hour marathon he went through the other afternoon at Long Beach. That's when his Tartar baseballers tucked away another championship by a measly 31 to 18 count.

We know it sounds like a track meet or a football game, but it

wasn't. Or at least, so the coaches and players said. We can't be sure. The wind was blowing up such a blanket of dust you couldn't see the diamond if you were 20 feet away.

In fact, when the game drew to an end just before sundown there was nary a spectator on hand. The coaches and players were sorry they couldn't say the same. Here's how it happened. Going into the eighth frame, the Tartars and Vikings were staging a conservative little contest with Compton holding a 13 to 12 advantage. Then came the end of anything remotely resembling baseball.

It all started when Jack Hathaway, the Long Beach pitcher, couldn't locate home plate. In it came, high, low, but mostly wide—with bench warmers diving for shelter.

Before the Long Beach coach could muster a relief pitcher, Hathaway had walked 24 batters—and walked in 11 runs. Something of a record.

He's probably still in there, frantically trying to locate the rubber, if he suddenly hadn't become disgusted and stomped off the field. He figured it wasn't too mortifying walking every one of the team, but when a hurler hits three batters in a row—then it's time to check out. So he did.

Well, they drafted a guy named O'Leary to get out on the firing line. He only took a few futile lobs to convince himself that his aim was sore, and he ups and walks off the field. Three pitchers later, the Vikings retired the side, but by then nobody cared.

They staged a futile rally in half of the ninth, but the Compton pitcher got the dust out of his eyes and put out the fire.

Here's the payoff. Compton made 13 hits—Long Beach 20.

SADDLE HORSES WANTED

For Annual Saddle Horse Auction at Baker, Oregon, July 2nd. Big crowds assured. Horse Show July 1st and Rodeo July 3rd and 4th.

500 good quality broke saddle horses needed to supply big demand. Small number of young unbroke saddle type horses accepted. Best prices in years for top quality.

The good reputation of the Baker Sale, operated by stockmen themselves insures biggest buyers and best prices. Feed and stall, sale and parade facilities furnished (at owner's risk) to horses in Baker by 8 a.m. July 1st.

Horses examined by veterinary and committed. \$1 fee covers entire cost. Blackie Ayers, auctioneer, Ed Sullivan and Herb Chandler, sales ring managers.

Describe your horses and reserve space by June 10th. Further information may be had from Cy Perkins.

Saddle Horse Sale Committee, Ed. Mason, Chairman

Solons and Padres Easy Winners Over Acorns and Stars

By United Press

Only two games were played in the Pacific Coast league again last night as continuing rain in the northwest prevented San Francisco-Seattle and Los Angeles-Portland from getting started on their series.

Sacramento took a 12-1 win over Oakland after two straight defeats, while San Diego made it two out of three against Hollywood by pounding four Twink pitchers for a 16-2 decision.

Jo-Jo White, veteran outfielder, paced Sacramento's triumph with six hits, including two doubles, in as many trips to the plate. The Solons hopped on Jack Lotz for five runs in the opening inning. Lotz was batted for 10 runs and 13 hits before Manager Dolph Camilli lifted him in the fifth. Norm Deweque homered for the only Oakland tally.

Lou Vezelich was the big gun in San Diego's 21-hit offensive against Hollywood. He drove in four runs with five hits. The Padres committed eight errors. Bob Ferguson coasted to his first pitching win of the year, scattering eight Hollywood hits.

Louisville Bans Derby Visitors

LOUISVILLE, Ky., May 18 (UP)—Regrettably but obediently Louisville was substituting a cold shoulder today for the usual warm smile it has for Derby day visitors.

Hotel owners, housing agencies and railroads, airlines and bus lines are complying with office of defense transportation regulations designed to limit Kentucky Derby attendance to residents of Louisville and vicinity.

The famed horse race will be run June 9, and hotels are getting hundreds of requests for reservations each day—and are refusing all of them.

Northwest Retriever Trial Dates Set

SEATTLE, May 18 (UP)—Dates of the first northwest retriever trials for Washington, Oregon and British Columbia dogs, have been set for June 1-2 at the Ingelwood country club here.

Although most entries will be from the northwest, including top-rated St. Louis Nitro Express, a golden retriever from Portland, owned by Charles E. Snell, several contestants are expected from the middle west.

Famed Steeplechase Pictured in Film

The running of the grand national steeplechase, one of England's foremost sporting events, is a highlight of the color motion picture "National Velvet," now showing at the Liberty theater.

The film includes shots of several of the important jumps on the famous Aintree course as well as scenes around the stables and stands.

Twelve-year-old Elizabeth Taylor has the title role, and Mickey Rooney is starred.

LAND FINS

The fin-back lizard, which lived on earth millions of years ago, wore a huge fin on its back, although it lived in dry desert.

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER

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SPORTS

Complete Local Reports

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Giants Win From Cubs, Move Away From Brooklyn

NEW YORK, May 18 (UP)—The New York Giants came from behind yesterday to beat the Chicago Cubs 8 to 5, giving them 12 victories out of their last 13 games and the 20th victory in 25 games played thus far this season.

The Giants went into the eighth trailing, 5 to 2. The Cubs had fattened the margin by scoring twice in their half off relief pitcher Ace Adams. Adams, who pitched only that one inning, gained credit for the victory in his 13th relief appearance in 26 games.

Pirates Down Dodgers

The victory enabled the leading Giants to gain on the Brooklyn Dodgers, whose 11-game winning streak ended at Ebbets field as the Pirates won, 12 to 3. Tom Seaver, who pitched a shutout in his last appearance, was mauling badly in a five-run Pittsburgh third inning, highlighted by Bob Elliott's triple. Nick Strincevich, the winning pitcher, also stopped the hitting streak of Lirr Olmo at 14 games.

Ken O'Dea's fifth inning double with the bases loaded gave the St. Louis Cards the three-run margin they needed to beat the Braves at Boston, 7 to 4.

Walter (Boom Boom) Beck, 41-year-old Cincinnati pitcher, gained his first victory of the campaign, 4 to 2, over the Phillies at Philadelphia, shading Whitlow Wyatt in a battle of veterans. Frank McCormick won the game with a two-run homer in the eighth.

For the fourth straight day, the entire American league program was rained out.

A small-mouth bass has a large mouth.

Baseball Standings

By United Press

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
	W.	L.	Pct.
New York	20	6	.800
Brooklyn	16	7	.696
St. Louis	11	12	.478
Chicago	10	12	.455
Boston	10	12	.455
Pittsburgh	10	13	.435
Cincinnati	9	12	.429
Philadelphia	6	19	.316

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

PACIFIC COAST			
	W.	L.	Pct.
Portland	30	13	.698
Seattle	23	18	.561
Oakland	25	21	.543
San Diego	24	23	.511
Los Angeles	21	23	.477
San Francisco	20	23	.465
Sacramento	21	24	.467
Hollywood	13	32	.289

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THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...



GEORGE: "Yes, I certainly would like to hear why you call that an old fashioned idea, Judge."

OLD JUDGE: "Glad to tell you, George. Until recently, a person known as an alcoholic was generally treated as a social outcast. Little if anything was done to understand him or help him. But, during the past few years, medical research and study has developed that alcoholics are really sick people...that there is usually a deep-rooted physical, social or emotional reason behind their behavior. That's why today so

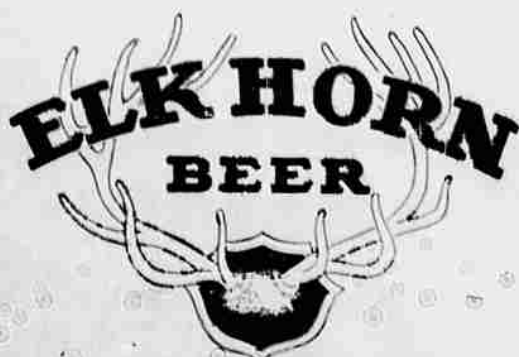
much is being done to help them by finding out and correcting the condition that leads them to excess."

GEORGE: "How many folks are there like that, Judge?"

OLD JUDGE: "Well, according to scientific research, 95% of the people who drink, drink sensibly. 5% do so unwisely, at times. Included in that 5% is the small percentage of the sick people I'm talking about."

GEORGE: "That certainly gives me a clearer picture. It's the most sensible approach I've ever heard on the subject."

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