

### Reporter Finds Self in Strange Postwar World

#### Asks: Who Is Frank Sinatra? What Is Atomic Bomb?

By WILLIAM McDUGALL  
SINGAPORE, Sept. 25 (UP) — Rip Van Winkle had nothing on me. After three years and five months in the isolation of a Japanese prison camp I have returned to a new world.

I have learned in the last few days President Roosevelt is dead. Wendell Willkie is dead. Hitler and Mussolini are gone. What was Harry Truman doing before he became vice president? What is a GI Joe? An atomic bomb? A rocket plane? Who are Frank Sinatra and Veronica Lake?

#### Went Along

I have been living on borrowed time since March 7, 1942, when Japanese planes sank our ship. One thing kept me alive then—my mother's words: "Don't forget, son, I love you."

It was March 5 (Java time) when I telephoned my home in Salt Lake City from Bandung, Java. Dutch army officers had warned the Japanese were coming uncomfortably close and I had better get to Wynaebroek Bay in south Java. Chances of getting through were 50 to 1. Witt Hancock of the Associated Press decided to go with me.

#### Kept On

I had a hunch things might be sticky so I phoned my mother. Those last words of my mother coming across the Pacific rang in my ears days later when I was swimming in the sea with waves breaking in my face, the water strangling me. They kept me swimming.

We sailed the night of March 6. There were 232 passengers. Hancock and I were the only Americans. The following morning a Jap reconnaissance plane circled us. Our ship's stern gun as well as 19 machine guns mounted on the deck rail fired away, but they could not shoot the plane down.

We figured Jap dive bombers would arrive within two hours. Lifeboats were issued, lifeboat places assigned. The ship's bar opened up. Hancock and I purchased all possible bottles of soda-water and stowed them in our lifeboat along with tinned foods.

#### Machine Guns

Then we sat in the saloon, praying for a change in the weather and trying to convince ourselves we would get through. But the sun shone brightly and nine Jap dive bombers appeared punctually.

Our guns opened up again and kept firing. The Japs machine-gunned the decks, lifeboats and swimmers in the water. Hancock and I waited as long as possible, hoping the planes would fly away.

Finally I ran to the rail. A plane swooped over as I jumped into the water. Alongside the ship was a damaged lifeboat, half awash. I climbed in and pulled a few others after me. We tried to push away. But the ship was settling so fast the boat was washed back onto the deck.

#### Stepped Out

A woman leaped casually on the rail of the ship's bridge speaking calmly to a flying officer named Van Ness who was in the water just below. Van Ness stepped out of the boat and joined the woman.

I dived overboard a second time and swam away with all my strength. All my life I had wanted to see a sinking ship go down. I turned, trading water, to watch the "Foelix Bras" dive.

Then I was amazed to see Hancock braced against the forward rail. Why he did not jump I don't know, unless he was wounded by the machine-gunning plane. Then the ship plunged.

I never saw Hancock again, but Van Ness lived to tell me the tale later. For that reason I've always hoped by some freak of fate such as a submarine miraculously appearing, or a flying boat, Hancock also might have been saved.

Van Ness said he went down with the ship but shot back to the surface like a bullet. A lifeboat rescued him.

I swam for the only visible lifeboat. We were 250 miles from the nearest point on the Java coast. I caught up with the boat after a hard swim.

"We're full. No more room. Get away from the side," they yelled.

"Give an American a break," I pleaded. "I can't swim to Java."

"Saved Him"

They didn't reply, but just roared away from me. I couldn't keep pace. That was the bitterest moment of my life, but, strange—

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ly, I felt no resentment. The boat obviously was loaded to capacity. Drowning seemed a certainty. The heavy swell made it difficult to keep the water away from my face, although I was wearing a lifebelt. But my mother's last words kept me swimming, conserving my strength, for I didn't know what. As the hours passed I seemed to be two persons. One detachedly observing and analyzing the other's actions and emotions. Also, as the hours passed my confidence in rescue increased. I fully expected some miracle to save me. It did.

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### Cove School Has Registration of 125 in All Grades

COVE, Sept. 27 (Special) — At the end of two weeks, Cove school has a registration of 99 in high school and 27 in the grades.

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Laird left Friday to visit in Weiser. They expect to be gone about a week.

Mrs. Anna Johnson who left last weekend for The Dalles because of the illness of her father, H. L. Hallyburton, did not return until Thursday. Mrs. Marjorie Forman supplied for her in the high school.

William A. Love, of Salem, is visiting his brother and family Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Love.

The Epworth League enjoyed a progressive dinner party. The dinner began at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Kight and went from there to Mr. and Mrs. Mack Rees, and from there to Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Conklin's.

Mrs. A. A. Antles left Friday for Yakima, Wash., to be present at the marriage of her grandson Sgt. Dale Antles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Antles of Yakima. The young man is just returned from overseas where he has been for three years. The marriage will be an event of Sunday. Mrs. T. R. Conklin accompanied her brother, Archer Antles of La Grande, to Yakima, Saturday morning to be present at the same event.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Price and their son IA. William Price of Hood River, were guests of their brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Price, this last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Downing and small son, Billy Robin, left Saturday for Prairie City to make their home. They have been in war work in Portland, but have been visiting their parents in Cove for two weeks.

Maj. and Mrs. W. K. Ross, who have been at Fort Blanning, Fla., for the past several months expect to be home very soon. The major expects a discharge, after having been in service nearly four years.

### NEWS OF OUR MEN—WOMEN IN UNIFORM

Pvt. Ray Loveless, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Loveless, 1519 Jackson avenue, La Grande, has arrived at the infantry replacement training center, Camp Wolters, Tex., to begin his basic training as an infantryman. He has been assigned to a battalion stressing rifle, heavy weapons and specialist training.

Pfc. Donald R. Stahl, Cove, has received his discharge from Fort Ord, Calif. He entered the service March 19, 1942 at Fort Lewis, and spent 14 months overseas. He participated in the Aleutian and Kwajalein campaigns, and has been awarded the bronze star, purple heart, Asiatic-Pacific campaign ribbon with two bronze stars.

Herman Ernest Yeske, CMM, has received his discharge from the U. S. naval personnel separation center at Shoemaker, Calif. He entered the service July 9, 1942 at Portland.

T/Sgt. Hobart V. Kennedy, La Grande, has received his discharge from the army separation center at Fort Lewis, Wash. He entered the service Oct. 25, 1940, and served 26 months overseas. He participated in the Tunisian, Algerian, French Morocco, Sicilian, Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno campaigns and has been awarded the European-African-middle Eastern service medal and the good conduct medal.

Sgt. Delmar J. Galloway, Elgin, received his discharge Sept. 17 from the Fort Lewis separation center. He participated in the Normandy campaign, and has been awarded the air medal with one oak leaf cluster, the purple heart, and the good conduct medal. He served three months overseas.

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### Rev. George Hayes, Revivalist, Coming

Rev. George Hayes, revivalist from Houston, Tex., will be speaker at the two-week revival to be held at the Coast Tabernacle beginning tomorrow. Services will be conducted at 7:30 p.m. each day.

The Rev. Mr. Hayes is sometimes referred to as the "Texas Cyclone," because of his fiery and far-flung ministry. He has been in evangelistic work for the past 15 years.

According to Rev. Lester Carlson, pastor of the Gospel Tabernacle, the Rev. Mr. Hayes was formerly a newspaperman associated with the Scripps-Howard newspapers and also has spent six years in the boxing ring.

Other features of the program include: congregational Gospel singing, special music, and special instrumental music.

### From where I sit... by Joe Marsh



Over at Thistle Ridge they're always boasting about their local heroes—ancestors in the Revolutionary War, congressmen, and an artist with pictures in the Metropolitan Museum. Well, we've got our local heroes, too...

### Our fo'n has heroes, too

You won't find monuments to these folks. But from where I sit, they're heroes in a cause that's pretty sacred in our town: the cause of freedom, tolerance, and human dignity.

There was old Doc Turner, who fought for years against the intolerance and bigotry that kept children from being vaccinated in our county. And Deacon Follenby, who fought for free pews in the churches; Jess Hackney, who

campaigns for teaching honest history in schools; Wedd Towers, who fought the encroachment of Prohibition in our county and persuaded folks they wanted tolerance and moderation in place of a return to lawlessness.

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