

# Russ Also Has Air Defense Headache

(Editors note: Much has been heard in Washington the past few weeks about air power, and the need for maintaining a strong air force to fight off an attack against an assault on the enemy. There is another side to the picture. How are the Russians fixed to defend their own and satellite key points? What do they have to do to carry an air war to our shores? In this exclusive interview with a high Allied air officer, you learn that Russia too has its problems. Big ones, he says.)

By CHARLES C. LANE  
PARIS (AP)—Air-defense, a prime Washington concern these days, is an even bigger problem in the Kremlin.

That is the measured judgment of a high Allied air officer. In fact, he believes, recent Russian peace gestures have been partly motivated by Moscow's awareness that the protective umbrella for Soviet skies is full of holes.

Put another way, the situation adds up to this: "You think you're scared, how do you think the Russians feel?" The key Allied airman, who asked that his name be withheld, makes these main points in an analysis of Russia's situation: Needs More Planes

It hasn't got enough planes to defend the 4,000-mile long Iron Curtain, let alone defend prize targets in the interior; productively, there is over-concentration on the MIG-15 jet fighter which lacks radar and therefore is virtually useless against night attack.

(In comparison, here are points concerning U. S. air defense stressed by Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, chief of the U. S. Air Force, in opposing a cut of five billion dollars in department funds: 1. Russia's light jet bomber fleet is growing rapidly, could hit any point in Europe within an hour and "quickly jeopardize" UN positions in Korea; 2. The TU-4 medium bomber (an improved version of the American B-29) could A-bomb any U. S. target on a one-way flight; 3. Long-range U. S. bombers like the B-36 and B-52 will always be limited in number, so it's necessary to have medium bomber bases near Iron Curtain targets.)

**Geographical Problem**  
Here's how the Allied air officer analyzes the geography problem facing Russian defenders along the 4,000 miles stretching from the Arctic to the Caspian: "Compare their position with England's in 1940. The Royal Air Force had to defend an air front of about 1,000 miles. The enemy was coming from only one direction, the East. And with 1,000 fighters the RAF just barely won."

He estimates Russia probably has 2,000 fighters assigned along the Iron Curtain frontier—a much thinner defense than England had—but equally important, attack could come from many directions: With Moscow as a measuring center, the U. S. Air Force base in Thule, Greenland, is 1,600 miles distant; North Africa, 1,400 miles; Suez, 1,200; Turkey, 800, and England 900. By comparison, New York is 4,400 miles, Chicago 4,500, Los Angeles 3,200 from nearest Russ bases.

**Reds Have 21,000 Planes**  
Altogether, the air officer says, the Soviet Air Force has about 21,000 planes, of which 60 per cent are deployed west of the Urals, the mountain chain which Russians themselves think of as an administrative as well as geographical dividing line in their east country. "This means there are about 13,000 planes of all types based in European Russia and the satellite countries," he states. "About 40 per cent, or 5,200, of these planes are fighters of which about 3,200 are believed to be jets—MIG 15s."

(Recent testimony and statements by American officials have estimated the total U. S. Air Force at "more than 20,000" planes, deployed in 106 wings (divisions) at home and abroad.

(There has been no report of how many are fighters, how many bombers, how many transports. It is believed that Russia has a higher percentage of jet planes than the U. S.)

**3 Forces in Germany**  
There are three Soviet tactical air forces in East Germany, the officer's analysis discloses. "No doubt thought of in terms of support of ground troops, if and when there is action."

"There are vital targets in the

# Oregon Solon Says Rollcalls Improve Laws

WASHINGTON (AP)—More roll-call votes in Congress probably would result in better legislation, believes Rep. Sam Coon, first-term congressman from Oregon's second district.

Summing up impressions of his first six months in Congress, the Baker Republican recalled at least one instance in which a representative from another state voted one way on a standing vote and then reversed himself on rollcall a few minutes later.

Also, Coon says, Congress seems to do a lot of talking on non-controversial bills, and could take a tip from the Oregon Legislature, in which he served one term as senator before coming to Congress. "In Oregon," Coon explained, "we made short work of the non-controversial bills."

Congress compared to the Legislature? Coon says they are "equally" comparable, although it was like "moving from the minor leagues to the majors."

"Re-election? Coon hasn't made up his mind whether to run, but concludes he "probably will."

# KPs to Attend Speech Meet In Portland

Several Salem members of the Knights of Pythias are planning to go to Portland June 27 for the nine-state, sectional speech tournament for youths on a highway safety subject.

Regional winners from Northwest states and provinces will vie for a chance to go to the national lodge-sponsored contest finals at St. Louis in August.

Among the regional winners in the Portland competition will be Anthony McPeak of Grants Pass who won the round held in Salem in May.

# Hodler Named Candidate for Postmaster

PORTLAND (AP)—The candidate of Multnomah County Republicans for the Portland postmastership is Albert M. "Duke" Hodler, Portland attorney.

The county central committee voted to support Hodler, who played football at Oregon State College three years, and later attended Notre Dame, where, as freshman coach he had under him the "Four Horsemen" of the 1924 Notre Dame varsity.

The job was left vacant by the death of Dr. E. T. Hedlund.

# New Englanders Lead National Doctor Ratios

MONTEPELIER, Vt. (AP)—May be New Englanders aren't just born rugged.

According to a recent survey by Schenley Laboratories Inc., Vermont has 434 practicing physicians to care for the state's medical needs. That's one physician for every 870 persons. This ratio places the Green Mountain state in the nation's top 10 states in number of active M. D.s per resident.

New York is number one with one physician for every 626 persons.

Other high-rating states include Massachusetts, Connecticut, Colorado, California, Illinois, New Jersey, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania.

Rhode Island ranks 12th and places five of the six New England states in the top 12.

# Researcher Prepares Frogs' Kinsey Report

AUSTIN (AP)—Dr. Frank Blair is making tape recordings of the mating calls of frogs and toads. The University of Texas scientist is trying to find out why several species of frog can live close together without much interbreeding.

He is testing a theory that a frog of one species is left unmoved by the mating calls of other species.

# Salem Man to Lead Beaver Marine Detail

A Salem man has been chosen to lead the Oregon Beaver platoon of the U. S. Marine Corps, slated to leave from Portland July 9.

The new Marine recruit is Gary Richard Holt, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Holt, 2275 N. Front St. Marine Recruiter Sgt. Robert Wilson explained that selection of the leader was based on scores accumulated in intelligence and leadership examinations. Holt graduated from Salem High School this year.

Sgt. Wilson said that formation of the Beaver Platoon from Oregon has been such a success, drawing 22 men from Salem alone, that Marines are planning on forming another similar platoon, tentatively scheduled to leave for training in August. The present platoon is composed of about 80 Marine enlistees from Oregon. Prior to their departure from Portland by military aircraft, the new Marines will be entertained as guests of the city for two days.

# Searchers Find Missing Pilot

LA GRANDE, Ore. (AP)—A pilot missing overnight on a flight from Ontario, Ore., to Prosser, Wash., was sighted uninjured Saturday beside his apparently undamaged plane in a meadow 40 miles southwest of here.

He was Merlin W. Root, 28, Prosser, who apparently had to make a landing there Friday evening. Search pilots said that only engine trouble or the softness of the meadow appeared to keep him from taking off again Saturday.

A ground party started in for the scene.

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