

# Luckiest Paratrooper Survives 1,000-Foot Fall, 2 Faulty Chutes

By LI. GRAY J. TALESE  
FT. KNOX, Ky. (AP) — The favorite bedtime story for young paratroopers is the miraculous tale of Stanley Melczak — the luckiest paratrooper alive.  
It is the tale of a guy who jumped from a plane 1,000 feet above the ground — and both his

parachutes failed to open. So, down he came the hard way. His body plunged into a snowbank.  
He was not even critically injured.  
Melczak, intensely religious, with deeply etched cheeks and a voice like James Cagney's, was one of 1,500 paratroopers flown near An-

chorage, Alaska, last January.  
He was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division and this was the Army's "Operation Snowbird" — a test to give airborne fighters experience in Alaska's harsh climatic conditions.  
The gaunt, 20-year-old private from Pittsburgh told the full story after reporting for duty recently at Ft. Knox.

"It was late January—the 29th," he began. "I had been a paratrooper since November—had seven jumps. This was to be my eighth. I felt nervous — more than ever before. Maybe it was just being in Alaska — the snow, fog and all. But I had complete faith in my parachute. Everyone knows that the possibility of a chute not opening exists, but the percentage is very small. I felt confident it wouldn't happen to me."  
"It was an extremely foggy day. I thought they'd postpone the jump, but they didn't. It was about 10 o'clock in the morning when we boarded the C119 (Flying Boxcar) and it would take us about an hour and five minutes to reach the drop zone (DZ)."

**Air Pockets**  
"The ride was a bit bumpy, we hit a couple of air pockets, and when we came within 10 minutes of the DZ, you could notice the change come over the men—100 of them—in that plane. Some tried to hide their nervousness by acting bored and sleepy, making like they'd been around working day. The young guys tried hard not to show their nervousness—but they showed it all the more by their solemn faces, their silence."  
"A lieutenant—new to our company—got up. We were almost there. He was in charge of our stick (the wire in the plane to which parachutes are linked). I was not thinking deeply—but I did recall the first jump I took. That was at Ft. Benning, Ga., jump school.

"The first jump is the easiest and the best. You're not nervous — you don't know what to expect — when you jump out, it is a wonderful feeling."  
"Everybody was very quiet now. All except the guy next to me. He was Pvt. Dick Brandolini from somewhere in New Jersey — and he never stopped talking."  
**About Food**  
"Two minutes before we had to jump and Brandolini was talking about food (Melczak grinned at the memory). My rucksack attached to the chute was filled with canned goods — canned peaches, canned pears, chicken, all part of a package my mother had sent the day before. I planned to have a feast after a while. Brandolini said to me:  
"Melczak, when you jump and your parachute don't open, I'm going to take all that food from you. O. K.?" I laughed. Real funny joke.  
"Even Brandolini stopped talking now. The only thing on my mind now was this—I was not going to freeze at the door. I was going to jump right away — don't hesitate and freeze."  
"Brandolini was out and then I went, too. I counted, 1,000 . . . 2,000 . . . 3,000 . . . 4,000 . . . 5,000."  
**No Sensation**  
"There was no sensation when I hit the air. Sometimes you get a jolt from the prop blast, but not this time."  
"I was going down fast now and I didn't see anyone around me. I looked up. Nothing was there. But I didn't get excited. There was always the reserve chute I could pull. Don't lose your head, Stan. I told myself."  
Melczak explained here that the

# Phone Threat Received in Portland Case

PORTLAND (UP)—Police today revealed that Mrs. Lizzie Sheppard, who has accused a Portland pastor of assaulting her and one of her children, received a threatening telephone call Friday night.

Mrs. Sheppard, a 28-year-old Negro woman who is expecting her fifth child, said she got quite a few phone calls Friday, most of them very sympathetic—"except this one."  
"When this man called — he didn't give his name—he told me to close up and get the hell out of town," the woman said. She didn't know who the caller was.

Mrs. Sheppard has accused the Rev. Elbert D. Riddick, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, of attacking her and her five-year-old son, Charles, with a rake as they walked past his church Thursday.

Riddick was arrested on an assault and battery charge following the alleged assault, and released later on his own recognizance.  
The pastor received some publicity some time ago because of his stand against civil liberties.

failure of his chute to open was due to breaking of the stais wire — which had hooked his chute to the stick in the plane.  
He was falling feet first, his head and upper body slightly forward, which is not recommended. His position was similar to that of a person sitting in a chair.  
"Finally," he went on, "I pulled the reserve chute. I thought I had fallen about 400 feet, but I was wrong. I dropped more than that—but I still wasn't worried."  
"After I pulled the cord, the little pilot-chute, which draws out the larger chute—flew out and hit me in the face. It caught onto me, covered my face and I couldn't see . . . I knew I was falling without a parachute, but I still didn't think I was washed up.  
Every Detail  
"The old story is that when persons feel death is close they can remember every little detail of anything that has ever happened to them in their lifetime. I wasn't thinking of anything—only to try to get that parachute off my face and get some air in it. I didn't make it."  
When he finally hit, Melczak never realized it. Luckily, he landed feet first in a 40-inch snowbank. His hips and knees were flexed 90 degrees. Thus, his body was a sort of shock absorber. "This position," a medical report aid later, "plus his excellent training, accounts for his living."  
"The medics and chaplains were the first to get to me," Melczak said. "They cut my equipment, got me on a stretcher, gave me some shots, and soon I was on a helicopter to an Army hospital. My arms and back felt broken, but it was only three fractured vertebrae."  
"That weekend, generals and colonels and my buddies came to see me. Shook my hand and told me how lucky I was. Brandolini came too—and I gave him some canned peaches. For the next three months I was in hospitals in Alaska, later was sent to Valley Forge, Pa., to another Army hospital."  
"All this time I still couldn't believe I survived such a thing. Exercises daily got me back in shape, and my back is strong and I'm in good shape now. I was walking within two weeks of the fall."  
Melczak, who stands 5 feet 8 and weighs 147 pounds, said that on being sent to Ft. Knox he was told "not to jump off a chair."  
"This has made him unhappy. 'I'm a paratrooper,' he said. 'I'd like to jump again.'"

# 'Gossip Mills' in Hollywood Frightening to Imported Star

Editor's note: Aline Masby is vacationing. Today's guest columnist is a new 20th Century-Fox actress imported from England, Dana Wynter. She writes about one facet of Hollywood that usually amazes foreigners — the gossip interest in a celebrity's personal life.

By DANA WYNTER  
HOLLYWOOD (UP) — There's only one thing in the United States which has been very good to me — that I'm afraid of. That is the perennial gossip-and-rumor mill.  
It's very flattering to find myself suddenly the center of columnists' attention wherever I go. I'm grateful for it.

Proof of the value of publicity came to me shortly after I arrived in New York. I'd done "Robert Montgomery" and "Suspense" TV shows when a national magazine ran a layout on me. Director Philip Dunne saw it and suggested I be tested for a contract at 20th Century-Fox. Others saw it and my shows, and I had offers from practically every studio in Hollywood.

**It's Important**  
So I do know that publicity is important, but the personal rumor type is what bothers me. And, believe me, the New York rumor mill is no different from the Hollywood one. Every time I lunched with an agent, a TV director or producer, although it was strictly business, it was made to sound strictly personal in the columns. But to be tagged as a playgirl when you're working like mad to learn your craft, to gather experience and credits, is disconcerting. You begin to wonder — when you see yourself tagged a "romantic twosome" with a variety of men — whether a producer thinking of employing you won't classify you as too interested in the social butterfly life to concentrate on a part.

A classic example of the rumor mill came when I went to my first Hollywood premiere at Grauman's Chinese Theater. It was the charity opening of "Daddy Long Legs," and my escorts were Gregory Ratoff, Leon Shamroy and Richard Todd — all very happily married men. I naturally thought there was safety from rumors in numbers. But next thing I knew there was a column item to the effect that Richard Todd and British actress Dana Wynter had ignited.  
Richard and his wife and I happened to be old chums. Since he had returned to Hollywood for a single day's added scene with Bette Dav-

# Benson Aide's Talk Attacked

WASHINGTON (AP) — A report by the Senate Republican Policy Committee's staff Friday accused Democratic senators of unfair attacks on an aide to Secretary of Agriculture Benson.  
At issue is a speech in which Don Paarlberg, economic adviser to Benson, told a West Millbury, Mass., farm meeting on Aug. 11 that agriculture has emerged from a "dream world of high income" into more realistic lower earnings.

Sens. Ellender (D-La.), Neuberger (D-Ore) and O'Mahoney (D-Wyo) all have pointed to the remark as likely to become a major campaign issue in 1956.  
The contended agricultural income has shrunk while prices paid

# 15,000 Arrested By Shanghai Reds

TAIPEI (UP)—Chinese Communist authorities in Shanghai have arrested more than 15,000 counter-revolutionaries within the past two weeks, the China Union Press said Saturday.  
The agency, which claims mainland contacts, said the Reds rounded up large numbers of former Nationalist officers on charges of having engaged in subversive activities.

by farmers for the things they must buy have risen. They predicted farmers would resent Paarlberg's statement.  
The Republican report said the three Democrat senators "have attempted to make political capital" by taking out of context "the statement from Paarlberg's speech. None of the three senators was in the city Friday.

## SUNDAY'S BROADCASTS

(Editor's note: The Statesman publishes in good faith the programs and times as provided by radio and TV stations. Changes in the programs are changed without notification this newspaper cannot be responsible for the accuracy hereinafter.)

## TV HIGHLIGHTS

**KPTV Sunday's Highlights (Channel 27):**  
12:30 p.m.—This Is the Life—A loving battle against despair and poverty, though the key to victory and happiness is hidden within her in "Beauty for Ashes."  
1:30 p.m.—Colgate Variety Hour—Guest star Harry Belafonte. Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy act as hosts; and Colgate favorites, Bob Williams and his trained dog, Red Dust, and the dance team of Augie and Margo complete the line-up.  
2:30 p.m.—Cameo Theatre—A father sacrifices his prize possessions to realize dreams he nurtures for a son who doesn't share those dreams. "A Little Night Music."  
11:00 p.m.—So This is Hollywood—A wealthy Maharajah decides to add Quenne Dugan (Mitzi Green) to his harem of 15 wives, but meets opposition from Queenie's best friend Hattie (Gordon Jones).

## TELEVISION

KLOR, VHF 12; KPTV, UHF 27; KOIN-TV, VHF 6	00:00	00:15	00:30	00:45
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## RADIO

KLOR, VHF 12; KPTV, UHF 27; KOIN-TV, VHF 6	00:00	00:15	00:30	00:45
7 KSLM KOCG		6:00-7:00 KOIN—Church of the Air		
8 KSLM KOCG		Melody Journey/Melody Journey/Morn. Melodies/Morn. Melodies		
9 KSLM KOCG		Salt Lake Tab. Salt Lake Tab. Inv. Learning Inv. Learning		
10 KSLM KOCG		Concert Hall Concert Hall Rainbow Sun Rainbow Sun		
11 KSLM KOCG		Conc. Hall Concert Hall Back to God Back to God		
12 KSLM KOCG		Waffle Club Waffle Club Waffle Club Waffle Club		
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**Fashionbilt**  
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