

Draft Dodgers Totaling 11,000 Caught By FBI

By ARTHUR F. DEGREVE
United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON—(U.P.)—More than 11,000 draft dodgers and accomplices have learned—the hard way—that it doesn't pay to try to dodge the draft. For their efforts since 1940, they have been sentenced to prison terms totaling 26,481 years and fines aggregating \$1,006,862.

And yet, according to the federal bureau of investigation, "it is not difficult to stay out of trouble insofar as selective service regulations are concerned."

FBI records tell a bizarre tale of draft dodging by city slickers, country bumpkins and in-betweeners. For example, take the case of Everett Stewart, Louisville, Ky., who reported his own death to his draft board while posing as his half-brother. He got three years.

Roy William Helfenbein, Darrouzett, Tex., was so anxious to stay out of the armed services that he had six teeth removed by three different dentists within a period of three weeks. He kept out of the army all right but he, too, landed in jail for three years.

The brothers Vosylus, George, 23, and Adolph, 22, of Waterbury, Conn., hit upon what they thought was a perfect bit of dodging—but they were wrong. George, who didn't think he'd like army food, and his brother rowed out into Winnepesaukee lake, New Hampshire, overturned the boat and swam ashore unobserved.

G-men, who were called into the case when the lake was dragged and no bodies were found, captured the brothers in Arizona. Given an opportunity to be inducted voluntarily, the brothers ironically failed to pass their physical examination so they were tried, convicted and sentenced.

Ponder the strange case of James Louis Sharp, husky, 34-year-old Athens, Ark., woodsman



'LITTLE FT. BENNING'—Chinese and American officers inspect Chinese troops at "Little Ft. Benning," China, where U. S. mission is giving modern infantry training.

who thought nothing of defying the government but couldn't stand to be lonesome and around large rattlesnakes. Emerging from the woods where he had remained hidden for seven months, Sharp said on surrendering that in addition to lonesomeness and rattlesnakes, he feared he might become ill and die; that he might freeze to death and that the mosquitoes "almost ate me up." These discomforts were not present at the federal prison to which he was sentenced to two years.

Eugene USO Plans New Year's Party

Service men and women who find themselves alone in Eugene without any feasible prospects of welcoming the New Year in while ringing the old out, will have their chance to do so at the USO canteen this Sunday night, according to Mrs. Omar Fendall, chairman.

Although no elaborate arrangements have been made for the event the canteen is scheduled to remain open past 9 p. m. closing hour on Sunday. All service men and women and wives of service men have been invited to drop in during the evening. There will be planned entertainment and special programs for the event, Mrs. Fendall said.

A special committee of junior hostesses has been appointed to handle all entertainment. Members of this committee are Charlotte Calder, Francelle Jackson and Barbara Hinds.

The new year watch party will be in progress during the entire evening and prospective celebrators may drop in at any time. On New Year's day the canteen will be open at the usual time.

Seabee Officer Ratings On Monthly Quota Basis

Although enlistments in the navy Seabees have been reopened to men not now in deferred classifications because of essential jobs, Chief W. E. Bell of the Eugene navy recruiting substation announced Thursday that the petty officer ratings available are on a strict monthly quota basis and that the "first come, first served" policy is being followed.

Men with skilled trades who are interested in joining the Seabees are asked to contact the recruiter in the Postoffice building without delay in order that they can take a preliminary physical examination before making a formal application. Delay may mean that a certain rating will close before action is taken, Bell said.

Because of the urgent need for certain skilled men to augment the construction regiments, the plan of voluntary induction has been reopened to men in the draft bracket, 18 to 37 inclusive. Details of this procedure may be obtained at the recruiting station. Men from 38 to 50 inclusive are permitted to enlist immediately if they are physically and technically qualified.

The Seabee ranks were reopened when the navy found itself with many huge building jobs to be completed as the battle in the Pacific progressed. Among the latest construction projects are the airfields on Saipan from which the B29s hop off for their attacks on Tokyo.

A preventive campaign was begun when it was found that the disease through Dec. 12 had afflicted 17,500 western front troops. Since then trench foot has been cut by 75 per cent throughout the European theater and in some units by 80 per cent.

Trench Foot Disease Beaten By Army

WASHINGTON, U.P.—The army has won a smashing victory against trench foot, a dreaded crippling disease which can be as effective as enemy bullets in knocking out frontline troops, the war department reported here.

A preventive campaign was begun when it was found that the disease through Dec. 12 had afflicted 17,500 western front troops. Since then trench foot has been cut by 75 per cent throughout the European theater and in some units by 80 per cent.

Costa Rica passed a social security law in 1943.

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KNOWS EYES

Flashes Of Life

By Associated Press
ARKANSAS CITY, Kan.—(U.P.)—Mrs. Ralph Oldroyd received a package of scissors, costume jewelry and knickknacks—plus \$2.50—from a person employed in her home years ago.

A note said the articles were to replace some that were lost or broken during the employment, and the money was to cover any incidentals that had been forgotten.

It was news to Mrs. Oldroyd. She hadn't known anything had been lost or broken.

WAKE UP

SPOKANE, Wash. (U.P.)—Detectives Mike Vecchio and August Bettinger, in search for a man reported by neighbors as missing for days and probably dead, tried to get into his house, but the doors and windows were locked.

After considerable noise and exertion, they heard a voice from within: "What are you doing out there. You're making enough noise to wake up the dead."

REMINDER

WOODWARD Okla. (U.P.)—A pilot and his four passengers escaped injuries in a crash landing near here, Highway Patrolman W. I. Fletcher said. But they had a grim warning.

They lit in a cemetery.

COLORFUL

SIDNEY, Neb. (U.P.)—Art Closeman, a veteran Sidney hunter, is anxious that lots of people see the duck he shot—he's quite sure they won't believe it's the real McCoy when they see it mounted.

The bird has the body of a mallard hen and the bright green head of a mallard drake.

ALARM TAKES HOLIDAY

CHICAGO, (U.P.)—Hyman Leibow, manager of a fur store, explained to police he had taken precaution against burglary over the Christmas holiday by placing a burglar alarm in his store.

But burglars jimmied the rear entrance—which was not wired—and stole 100 fur coats Leibow valued at more than \$6,000, he told police.

Wheat Production Hit Oregon High In '27

CORVALLIS, (U.P.)—Oregon's wheat production from 1869 to the present varied from a low of 120,000 acres the first year to a 1927 high of 1,102,000 acres, Oregon State college extension service reported here.

The 1869 crop was 2,340,000 bushels and the 1927 record crop, 27,540,000 bushels.

A smaller crop in 1920—21,795,000 bushels—was the most valuable, bringing a cash farm income of \$36,858,000. The lowest average price over a five-year period was 59 cents a bushel from 1930-34. This returned an average income of only \$8,264,000. The highest average price was \$1.62 a bushel from 1915-19.

Oregon's total acreage was reduced markedly from 1939 through 1943, when only 728,000 acres were grown. War demand increased the 1944 acreage to 929,000 and an estimated production only three million acres under the 1927 high.

Although about 80 per cent of the 1943 acreage was in eastern Oregon, all but two Oregon counties grow wheat. Umatilla county is the leading producer, followed by Sherman, Gilliam, and Morrow.

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Changes Will Follow Hospital Checkups, Committee Assures

By RAYMOND LAHR
United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON—(U.P.)—The house military affairs committee has reported "reassuring" results from its long investigation of army hospitals which in one instance found patients being served storage eggs generously covered with catsup to "disguise their evil taste."

The committee said the war department had taken corrective action in response to almost all suggestions based on its survey of 89 hospitals in 20 states and the District of Columbia. The report listed 28 specific cases referred to the department but did not name hospitals involved.

"Whatever may have been the situation prior to the committee's investigations," it said, "with few exceptions the results following the investigation have been decidedly reassuring."

The committee said hospital buildings in general received proper care but that some had uncovered pine floors and some needed paint and connecting passageways between ward buildings and main buildings.

Although several of the 28 cited cases referred to inadequate fire prevention equipment, the committee said the equipment generally appeared adequate and efficient since it had not learned of any conflagrations at army hospitals.

Several of the listed cases referred to inadequate air conditioning and ventilation during hot weather. The committee said conditioning systems had been installed in some buildings, where the need was acute, as a result of its work.

The report told of one non-fireproof building dating "back to the Civil War period" with bedridden patients on the second and third floors. Another had no fire-fighting equipment except hand extinguishers and had only a single exit on the second floor.

The committee said it found that one convalescent hospital used storage eggs which had not been inspected for nine months, serving them with catsup "to disguise their evil taste." Another hospital had a mess hall 12 feet long to serve 400 patients and civilians, some of whom had to wait in line 45 to 60 minutes.

The report cited several instances where hospitals were closed or not used to maximum capacity "despite overcrowded conditions elsewhere." These included one with 1,495 beds which was closed this month and another with 175 beds which was closed after two years during which \$250,000 had been paid to the owner for space rental.

Nut Growers Discuss New Marketing Unit

PORTLAND, Dec. 28. (U.P.)—Northwest nut growers, alarmed because of a subsidy of Turkish filberts has taken away their tariff protection, are renewing attempts to organize a central marketing organization.

Three major cooperatives—the Oregon Nut Growers, Newberg, North Pacific Nut Growers, Dundee, and the Eugene Fruit Growers association—were urged at a special meeting here to merge into one sales agency. All growers will be asked to sell through the clearing house.

Oregon State Ready For Winter Term

CORVALLIS, Dec. 28. (U.P.)—Oregon State college officials announced today that beginning freshmen may enter college at the start of the winter term January 2; though not all beginning subjects may be offered.

The new term for army students begins January 8, and 150 army students will finish their work this term.

DEMOCRATS IN OFFICE

SEATTLE, Dec. 28. (U.P.)—In further moves to replace every state department head with a democrat, Governor-elect Mon C. Wallgren yesterday announced the appointment of Clarence Hickey as state highway director, and George Stuntz as head of the department of public service.

ROBOTS KILL 8,098

LONDON, Dec. 28. (U.P.)—German bombs and V-bombs killed 8,098 British civilians and seriously injured 21,137 in the first 11 months of this year, the government announced tonight.

Realtors Express Regard For Large

A resolution expressing appreciation for the long and faithful service of Elisha Large as mayor of Eugene will be drawn up soon for the local Realty board. Vote was taken by the realtors Thursday to have a committee named to draw up such a resolution, Frank I. Kinney, Robert W. Prescott, and Leroy Newland being on the committee. Large goes out at the end of the year as mayor to be succeeded by Earl McNutt.

New Uses For Wood Waste Reported

OLYMPIA, (U.P.)—Everything in the forests, from needles and twigs on up, has some commercial value according to technical research supervised by the Washington State Planning council in the past two years, the council's biennial forestry report states.

In an outline of the council's forestry program for the coming two years, Executive Officer Pat Hetherington reviewed forestry research undertaken at the University of Washington. Close examination of debris left after typical logging operations proved a great deal of this material has a positive value even under present methods of utilization, he said, and such scrap can no longer be called unavoidable waste.

Experiments in wood coke show much remains to be done to yield a durable metallurgical coke that will not deteriorate in handling and will sustain a furnace burden, Hetherington reported.

Cork has been produced from Douglas fir bark and tanning from Hemlock and a number of machines capable of transforming woods waste into usable material have been developed.

The experimenters have even designed a machine which can replace lumber defects such as pitch pockets, worm holes, decay and knots without the use of glue but because of war restrictions the machine has not been built and tested.

The challenging problem of disposing of waste sulphite liquor from pulp mills has been tackled and four patent applications have been made to completely utilize all of the liquor, Hetherington said. If such processes are commercially successful, they will aid in accomplishing the elimination of stream and waterfront pollution.

Submarine Seawolf Presumed Lost

WASHINGTON, (U.P.)—The U. S. Submarine Seawolf is overdue from patrol and presumed lost.

The navy's announcement said the vessel was under command of Lt. Comdr. Albert M. Bonnier, of White Plains, New York, who is listed as missing.

The 1,500 ton submersible was of a class which normally carries a complement of 62 men. No announcement was made of the number lost, but the navy said next of kin of all casualties had been informed.

Approximately 85 per cent of the steel produced in the United States is made by the basic open-hearth method.

Rookie Lieutenant Leads Group In Storming Pillbox

By HAL BOYLE
WITH AMERICAN TROOPS IN GERMANY, Dec. 12—(Delayed)

—(U.P.)—The old men in the platoon shook their heads when they learned their assignment—to take German pillbox No. 41.

Twice before, veteran combat troops had tried to crack this key fortification. Twice they had failed.

"It's a tough enough job—but with that young shavetail and a platoon full of rookies..." the old-timers shook their heads again.

"That young shavetail," Lt. Joseph Hamilton, Jr., Lynbrook, N. Y., knew that the veterans in the outfit doubted his judgment. But he also knew his job. He briefed his men in a wood near Aachen and they jumped off an hour before total darkness under cover of a barrage.

Terrain Rough

Over rough terrain swept by enemy mortar and machine-gun fire, Hamilton worked his men toward the pillbox as Nazis in adjoining pillboxes sniped at them.

One squad, led by Staff Sgt. Homer D. Brown of Ipaia, Ill., finally surrounded the pillbox after a flaming fight.

Demolition men heaved a satchel charge of TNT at an aperture in the pillbox observation room. It fell short by heart-breaking inches, showering the sprawled Americans with mud.

Slowly the green shavetail and a few riflemen worked around to the rear. While the others covered him, Hamilton stepped quickly to the door of the observation room and shoved a fragmentation grenade through a small hatch. It burst with a muffled explosion and there was silence inside. Another package was placed in the embrasure to be sure no one was left alive.

Lower Part Left

There still remained the lower part of the pillbox, its chamber undamaged by the two explosions. Pvt. Elmer F. Foust, Williamsport, Pa., ran to open the back escape door and thrust another charge inside. The fuse was faulty—it failed to explode.

A terrific blast shook the shavetail. Rushing to the door, Lt. Hamilton found the stock of his rifle open with the fuse of another package charge and shoved it into the pillbox. The Germans promptly threw it out again. Hamilton there still were several seconds before it would explode. Hamilton picked up the 12 pounds of TNT and held the pole handle with his hand.

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Lieutenant Hamilton's hand was healing nicely and everyone in the division is proud now of his "rookie" platoon. Old-timers are glad to be serving under him and nobody calls him "that shavetail." Lieutenant Hamilton is an old-timer now.

WAR ACTIVITY UP

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28. (U.P.)—Wartime economic activity reached the national income to \$139,000,000,000 in 1944 to smash all previous records.

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