

Air Force Cut Is Indicated

WASHINGTON —(U.P.)— A defense spokesman said Thursday that the Air Force soon will be reduced from 54 to 48 groups in keeping with Defense Secretary Louis Johnson's new economy order.

Groups to be inactivated are: 14th Fighter at Dow Base, Bangor, Me.; 82nd Fighter at Grenier Base, Manchester, N. H.; 23rd Fighter at Howard Base, Canal Zone; 47th Light Bomb, Barksdale Base, Shreveport, La.; 317th Troop Carrier, which has been on the Berlin Airlift, and one other group not yet selected.

Inactivation of the 23rd Fighter Group will leave the Caribbean Air Command, including the Canal Zone, without fighter plane defense. Actually, however, no fighter planes have been stationed in the Canal Zone since last March, when the 319th Fighter Squadron, an all-weather outfit, was transferred to Moses Lake, Wash.

Union Veteran, 102, After Command of Grand Army

LONG BEACH, Cal.—(U.P.)—Charles L. Chappel, who at 102 whizzes about town on an electric scooter, had hopes Thursday of becoming commander of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Chappel, now senior vice commander, will be one of the five last encampment of the GAR in Indianapolis on Aug. 28.

The present commander of the army, Theodore A. Penland, Portland, Ore., says he will head the GAR until "the books are closed," but Chappel still thinks he has a chance to succeed Penland.

Last 15 Minutes
"I sure would like to be commander the last 15 minutes of my life," he said hopefully.

Chappel, a peppery figure who flounces his mustaches before being photographed, said he was "going to the encampment or bust in the attempt."

He indignantly denied that he recently spent several days in the Navy hospital here because he fell from a peach tree while picking fruit. He admitted he had been in the hospital but snorted: "I didn't even climb the tree. It was hot and I must have fainted while rolling up the garden hose."

City Party
At a city-wide party on his 100th birthday, Chappel acknowledged praises from civic leaders with a terse: "I haven't heard a damn word any of you said."

But, he still doesn't wear glasses and has outlived three wives and three sons. His only complaint is that he is beginning to feel "a little tired" and that his lawn isn't as well kept as in past years.

Born in New York
Chappel was born in New York state July 7, 1847 and enlisted Aug. 23, 1864 in the 10th New York Infantry. He was at Appomattox when Lee surrendered and allows no distortions of history concerning that.

When a speaker recently referred to "Appomattox Court-house," Chappel rasped out: "Wasn't any courthouse. Court-house had burned down."

The be-medalled campaigner will have an attendant for the first time when he goes to Indianapolis this weekend. Elmer Wolgemuth, World War II veteran and past commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of Long Beach, will fly with him to the encampment.

Hoosier Hog Triples As Dog, Saddle Horse
LA GRANGE, Ky.—(U.P.)— Oldham County fair visitors may really see something—a Hoosier hog that triples in brass as a hunting dog and a saddle horse.

Jack Hough, Portland, Ind., the farmer who owns Barney, the hog, claims Barney is as good as a pointer in flushing game.

"Bring Barney to La Grange and he can compete in the horse show, the dog show and the hog show."

Thus read an invitation to Hough from Roy Garr, dog show chairman for the fair opening.

TRUMAN OUT IN '52?
WASHINGTON —(U.P.)— President Truman hinted Thursday he might not seek re-election in 1952 but may make a national campaign for Democratic candidates in the 1950 Congressional elections.

Trent, Dexter Set Youth Rally
The community churches of Trent and Dexter are presenting a special youth rally Saturday evening, Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m. at the Trent Church of Christ. Lee Herbert, one of the local ministers, will be master of ceremonies. Also featured will be the orchestra from the Trent church.

A well known youth leader and professor at Northwest Christian College will give a short, challenging message. While this interdenominational program is planned especially for young people, everyone is invited to attend.

MENARY WORK TO START
WALLA WALLA, Wash. (U.P.)— McNary Dam contractors got the signal Thursday to go ahead with construction work on the Oregon shore of the Columbia River.

Two Skeletons Recovered

LONGVIEW, Wash.—(U.P.)—Two skeletons taken from a long-crashed airplane near here have been identified as those of a Detroit manufacturer and a West Coast assistant, Coroner Gordon M. Quarnstrom reports.

The coroner said that word from a Glendale associate of the two men disclosed the plane owned definitely was Frank L. McKenna of Detroit and Los Angeles. He was the owner of the Knu-Vise Co., manufacturer of toggle clamps. A British subject, he is survived by his mother in England.

The other man in the plane was Elmer West Jeffries of Bakersfield, Cal., who was traveling north with McKenna to attend a football game in Seattle late in 1941 when their plane disappeared.

Cosmic Study Set by UW

SEATTLE —(U.P.)— Six University of Washington scientists are going to study, from the vantage point of the Rocky Mountains, the mysterious cosmic rays that bombard the earth from outer space.

Four of them have left for Colorado with four tons of special equipment. The project is sponsored by the university and the Office of Naval Research.

Beaches Searched for Missing Widow; Police Find Purse

LOS ANGELES —(U.P.)— Lifeguards along the Southern California beach were alerted Thursday to search for the body of Mrs. Mimi Bomhower on the possibility that she might have committed suicide or been murdered there.

The missing widow's white purse was found late Wednesday in a Beverly Hills market. On it was a shakily-printed message in black ink which read:

Found at Beach
"To police dept: We found this at the beach Thursday night."

Sgt. Jack Ferges of the West Los Angeles Detective Bureau refused to speculate about the note's origin, but said lifeguards would begin searching the beach at daylight "just in case."

"We haven't formed any opinion on whether it's suicide or anything else," he said. "It might be a hoax to mislead us. We'll just have to wait and see."

He said the lettering was shaky, as if it had been done in a moving car or by a drunk person.

Contained Personals
The semi-cloth bag was definitely identified as Mrs. Bomhower's because it contained her driver's license, car keys, personal effects, credit cards and other papers, Ferges said.

An employee found the purse in a telephone booth at a fashionable Wilshire Blvd. market. It was given to Beverly Hills police, who

Late for Dinner

LOS ANGELES —(U.P.)— Don Clark, Marine reserve flier, Denver, Colo., was flying over the ocean near Catalina Island when he radioed his base:

"Call my wife. Tell her I'll be late for dinner."

Minutes later the engine of his Corsair plane conked out and he crashed into the ocean as he had anticipated. A fishing boat picked him up wet but unhurt.

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