

Eugene Pilot Gets His Third MIG

Felix Asla Jr. Gains Fame After Long Wait

By DON BROWN
Register-Guard Staff Writer

A 28-year old Eugene Sabre jet pilot, whose primary instructor told him a few years ago that he would never learn to fly, shot down his third Communist MIG-15 over Korea recently.

"Your one of the poorest students I've ever had, and you'd better just forget about flying," an instructor once told Felix Asla Jr., now a major. But Asla wasn't one to give up so easily—and things didn't turn out like that, either.

O. L. (Doc) Ireland, proprietor of the Lemon O on the University of Oregon campus, leaned across a soda fountain counter in his establishment last week and recalled the time from 1940 to 1942 when Asla, then a University student, jerked sodas for him.

"FELIX LOVED flying," Doc said. "There's one kid who really took to it. He's one of those boys who can do anything from putting a roof on a house to shoeing a horse."

"He was miffed because they gave him an office job after the war. Felix stayed in the Air Force to make a career of it."

He was flying, but not in combat. And then the notices began coming in that he was shooting them down.

The first notice that Asla was in combat was given by his wife, Bess, of 651 E. 12th Ave., when she heard over the radio March 12 that her husband had shot down his first MIG. He has been in the Air Force nine years and was a Thunderbolt pilot in World War II.

"He didn't tell me he was flying until I heard that he shot one down," Mrs. Asla said.

Mrs. Asla on Wednesday received a letter from her husband, now squadron commander of 336 Fighter Interceptor Squadron. It arrived here just two weeks after he knocked down the first MIG.

THE MAJOR HAS been in Korea six months, and his letter said he had tallied 44 missions. He has to his credit three downed and two damaged enemy planes. Asla said in his letter that the enemy pilot was seen parachuting over north-west Korea after the major made his last hit.

Asla's parents live in La Grande. He worked to pay his way for two years at the University before entering the service. Other places he worked while in school included the Eugene Water and Electric Board, where he held a night job doing office work.

Major and Mrs. Asla are the parents of a son, Terry, 7, and daughter, Merrilee, nearly 4. A third child will be born in three more months. Under regulations, Asla will be eligible to return home after completing one year of Korean duty or 100 missions.



FELIX ASLA JR.
Miffed Because They Started Him in an Office

7000 Men Will Participate in Nevada Atomic Tests

WASHINGTON — (U.P.) — The Defense Department announced Saturday night that about 7000 officers and enlisted men will participate in an atomic explosion test in Nevada next month.

The Atomic Energy Commission announced Friday that a "limited number" of news reporters and photographers and civil defense officials would be permitted to observe one of the tests from a point on the AEC's proving ground at Frenchman's Flat, Nev.

The tests will be during the fourth week of April.

The Defense Department said that the tests are designed to indoctrinate members of the armed services in atomic warfare and to test military equipment.

"THE EXERCISE is further designed to provide an opportunity to observe the psychological effects on individuals of an atomic explosion," the announcement said.

The troops will prepare and occupy positions at "pre-determined positions of safety," according to the Defense Department. After the explosions the troops will simulate an attack near "ground zero," the approximate center of the burst area.

Army atomic specialists will indoctrinate the troops before the exercises.

Army troops, participating in the tests will include two battalion combat teams and supporting service troops from the 32nd Airborne, First Armored, 31st Infantry, and 47th Infantry Divisions.

The Marine Corps will furnish two infantry battalions of about 1000 men each.

THE DEFENSE Department said the tests, named "Desert

Rock IV," will be a sequel to those of last November.

Informed sources have said that included in the spring atomic tests will be field firing of atomic weapons perfected as a result of experimental shots last spring and fall.

6 Local Area Marines Expected in U. S. Today

Six Eugene area men are aboard the transport Gen Gordon which is scheduled to dock in San Francisco Sunday from the Far East. All are Marines. They are Sgt. Ellis G. Smith, Sgt. Leon G. Bender and Cpl. Richard L. Armstrong, all of Springfield; Sgt. Harold L. Curry and Sgt. Billy R. Hayzlett, both of Eugene, and Sgt. Robert H. Sommerville, Harrisburg.

Pills Work

PADUA, Italy — (U.P.) — Rodolfo Dona, 55, suffering from arthritis and insomnia, took an overdose of sleeping pills. Then he turned on the gas. Then he tried to shoot himself in the temple but he was so sleepy from the sleeping pills that he missed.

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Here's the News of Suits . . . Spring '52

Above all else, suits are feminine, gentle in mood. Skirts move with grace . . . cut to flare mildly in some cases . . . extravagantly in others . . . Looking newest when they're a burst of pleats. Even slim skirts are built on curves, jackets are newly short or longer, tighter fitting over the hips with pleated skirts . . . show an understated shoulder, ¾ length sleeves. Fabrics are less bulky allowing finer detail.

Sketched left: JABLOW SUIT in a fine ribbed worsted. 149.95

Sketched center: VARDEN PETITE SUIT . . . double breasted jacket with piquet trim . . . \$110

Sketched right: LA BALBO SUIT . . . In an imported novelty worsted with all around pleated skirt. 139.95



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