

Yankee 'Flier of Fortune' Had Big Part In Chasing Communists from Guatemala



BIG FACTOR IN CONVINCING COMMIES—to get out of Guatemala was Yankee aviator Jerry Fred DeLarm's bombing of Fort Matamoros, key Red defense post. This was wreckage Jerry's bombs left.

By DOUGLAS LARSEN
NEA Staff Correspondent
GUATEMALA CITY (NEA)—A former U. S. Army Air Corps fighter pilot and colorful free-lance soldier-of-fortune was the man responsible for the dramatic air operations against Communist forces in the revolution last summer which kicked them out of this Central American Republic.

He is 33-year-old Jerry Fred DeLarm, a slim dark, breezy individual born in San Francisco, son of famed pioneer pilot Eddie DeLarm and father of three children. Three crucial times his air missions changed the course of the revolutions in favor of the democratic forces of Col. Carlos Castillo Armas.

The day Armas crossed the border Jerry dropped a bale of propaganda leaflets on the doorstep of Communist President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, precipitating panic among Arbenz and his staff from which they never recovered.

At a vital stage of the confused fighting he dropped two bombs dead-center in the important Fort Matamoros, convincing the Arbenz-controlled army that further fighting was hopeless.

And during final truce negotiations he spotted a column of die-hard soldiers obviously heading along the road to ambush Armas in time to save the new President.

Jerry's story is told here exclusively for the first time.

In 1952 he became a key man in the revolution plans of the then exiled Armas through Domingo Goicoechea, now Guatemalan under-secretary of state. Jerry's mission was to whip up an air force for the day of revolt.

He had been flying around Central America with his dad since he was nine, knew the language,

most of the important people, and was married to a relative of the ex-President of Costa Rica, Dr. Calderon-Figueroa.

During World War II Jerry shot down two Jap Zeros and flew bomber-escort and strafing missions against the Jap mainland. After the war he was in a half-dozen airline ventures and fought against pinko forces which took over Costa Rica in 1948.

In 1950 he did sky writing and aerial broadcasting for the Arbenz campaign. But he was cheated out of the \$20,000 they promised him, and he saw the Commie control of the Arbenz group. This prepared him for his later work with Armas.

During the 18 months before the revolt, as an Armas agent, Jerry's front in Guatemala City was selling cars and giving flying lessons.

From time to time he met with Armas in Honduras. Jerry's code name was "Rosebush." He planned sites for fields, photographed the area and helped to line up pilots and planes.

When the revolution started the Armas air force consisted of six P-47 Thunderbolts and three C-47 transports. Most of the planes had been bought in the U.S. through surplus channels. They had been "demilitarized" but Jerry supervised replacement of the armament.

Just before Armas forces crossed the border Jerry got a terse warning from Alicia Goicoechea, sister of Domingo Goicoechea, and a key underground figure, that the Reds knew of his part in the upcoming revolt. He had already moved his pregnant wife and two children out and escaped on a regular Pan-American flight hours before they tried to arrest him at his home near the American embassy.

On June 17 Jerry flew his first mission, dropping leaflets on Guatemala City. The effect on the population was electric, signaling that the intolerable yoke of communism was about to be thrown off.

But the bale of leaflets, which had been left tied by mistake, and which landed a few yards from Arbenz' office with a loud bang panicked the Commie staff.

Armas first ordered his pilots to shoot into the air. Later they began shooting at military targets. During these attacks Arbenz announced that a three-year-old girl, Hilda Leticia Torres, had been killed by one of Jerry's bullets.

It set off an international propaganda blast in the Commie press. But a quick check by the underground revealed that she had been struck on the lip by a spent .22 caliber bullet. They hid her immediately, knowing that Arbenz would want her killed. She is alive to day and was recently visited by Jerry.

A streak of foul weather forced Jerry to lead most of his mission through the dense clouds to targets from the secret field which was their base. He was the only pilot who knew the area well enough to locate targets by instrument flying.

His mission against Fort Matamoros, key Red defense post, took place on June 28. The next day Arbenz made his fake gesture of resigning and putting Col. Diaz in his place. Up to that time the Army was on the verge of quitting and Jerry's bombing convinced them that they should.

The two 250-pound bombs he dropped in the center of the fort on the edge of Guatemala City set off an ammunition dump, killing

200 soldiers.

News of this hit was accepted by Guatemalans as the deciding factor in the struggle. They rejoiced. And it wrecked Arbenz plan to leave Col. Diaz behind as his stooge.

After the peace negotiations began Jerry was flying Armas in and out of the 900-foot pasture which served as a landing strip for Armas headquarters at Chiquimula, 100 miles east of Guatemala City. On one of these flights he saw a column of camouflaged troops heading for the headquarters.

It was an obvious last minute trick to kill Armas. But Jerry's warning frustrated it.

Today, rejoicing in the recent birth of his first son, Jerry is unconcerned about the revolution. "Be sure to mention the good flying of Carlos Cherman, Silva Romero and Fred Shupp," he says.

"I'm sure that our good new President will make this country a better place to live and that's enough to reward me," he insists.

He plans to go on selling cars and fooling around with hot rods and playing the guitar. His attractive wife, Virginia, still in the hospital from the birth of the son, says philosophically:

"Who knows what Jerry will do next? But you can be sure it will be interesting."



LITTLE GIRL JERRY'S BOMBS "KILLED," according to Communies, is visited by the free-lance aviator in Guatemala. Here Hilda Leticia Torres wears DeLarm's helmet while mother holds her.

adversary is a more realistic view of France today than the widely quoted words of Britain's Roman Catholic Bishop Heenan of Liverpool.

The bishop said France never would fight for western Europe's freedom because the nation was riddled with Reds.

Mendes-France stated recently, and convinced a lot of western observers, that Frenchmen who vote to the far left are "discouraged people" voicing a "protest" rather than down-the-line followers of the Kremlin creed.

The answer, the dynamic premier explained, is to cut the ground from under the Communists, to remove the things Frenchmen are protesting against.

If such reforms and such policy are not carried out, and if these people remain despairing and discouraged, then the Communist danger will increase," he warned.

The Communists, with their 99 votes in the Assembly, are still playing it from strength.

They polled 4,500,000 votes in the last general election in 1951. One ed his ballot for the Communist candidate or one of the Progressives, who won four seats and consistently vote with the Reds.

This block of 100 votes in the 627-seat Chamber—later reduced to 99 by death—frightened more than one of the fast-revolving French premiers in the past three years and helped collapse several governments.

Communist Party membership dropped from its 800,000 peak of 1946 to 400,000 in 1951, and is estimated at 250,000 today. The party dropped 1,000,000 votes between the 1946 and 1951 general elections.

Even the Communist newspaper, "L'Humanite," let down its hair for a public shampoo recently. Once 500,000 copies of it were sold daily. Now, the paper admitted, it is distributing only 121,000 copies. In the past year, there were 10,000 fewer copies sold daily in Paris than the year before.

And Mendes-France isn't giving the paper any of the sort of material that might help its circulation rise.

Mendes-France No Easy Target For Communist Party in France

By EDWARD SHIELDS
United Press Staff Correspondent

PARIS—(UP)—There isn't much pie in the sky for free Europe's second largest Communist Party these days.

Fewer people read its newspapers. Fewer Frenchmen belong to it. Members of the National Society of Mayors has refused to have anything to do with their Red colleagues. Workers and youth are looking ever more hopefully to Premier Pierre Mendes-France for leadership.

However, the Communists still have the largest voting following in the nation, the second largest in the party; most of the farmers lost interest long ago. In the middle-size towns in industrial areas, the Communists still have lots of punches to toss, but they haven't been able to land any on the jutting jaw of Mendes-France. Moreover, he has some punches of his own.

When he took over the premiership, he told the Assembly he did not want the Red votes.

He told his western allies, in his United Nations speech, that he would never swallow the Communist bait of bi-lateral talks between France and the Kremlin, without Britain or the United States.

He has pushed ahead with his anti-alcoholism decrees although the Communists have tried to grab political kudos by linking up with the farmers who saw their traditional right to make their own beverages threatened.

Observers here say that Mendes-France's willingness to trade punches with an admittedly tough

Still Unsatisfied On Temperature

SCHENECTADY, N.Y.—(UP)—Modern research scientists have pushed their studies of temperatures to within a fraction of one degree of absolute zero—minus 273.15.

But no matter how far down the average temperature goes, there's no existing thermometer good enough to satisfy the scientists working at low temperatures.

More than 130 scientists in the United States, Canada and Europe met here recently at General Electric Research Laboratories and passed a recommendation requesting establishment of an accurate temperature scale extending below the boiling point of oxygen.

The scientists point out that temperature ranks with mass, length and time as one of the most basic physical qualities.

DOG CATCHER FINED
SAN FRANCISCO (UP)—Humane Society Dog Catcher John L. McKenna was fined \$25 Monday by Municipal Judge Clayton Horn for hitting Patrolman Loren D. Clem on the arm when the officer tried to arrest him.

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Like's Golf Game At Burning Tree Spoiled by Rain

By MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press White House Writer

WASHINGTON (UP)—Backstairs at the White House:

This happened during a period of unsettled weather at the Burning Tree Club, where Mr. Eisenhower likes to play golf.

His foursome was on the 10th hole when a sudden rain storm hit. The President and his pals thought the downpour would be brief and crawled into a White House car which had been following the foursome at a leisurely pace.

After a time, it became evident that the rain was no passing shower, so the party decided to return to the club house.

The President cautioned the Secret Service agent who was driving not to get onto a wet fairway or green because this would damage the well-tended course. So, the driver stuck to the edge of the fairways and was in the rough occasionally as he drove slowly toward the clubhouse.

Unhappily, the car bogged down some distance from shelter.

"Let's all get out and push," Mr. Eisenhower suggested.

One of his golfing companions protested that the President might hurt himself. Whereupon all hands struck out on foot through the woods to the clubhouse.

The Secret Service sent a tractor to pull the car out of the mudhole while the Chief Executive was changing clothes in the locker room. One of Mr. Eisenhower's friends commented cheerfully that at least the storm would not change his plans for a bridge game in the clubhouse that afternoon.

But Mr. Eisenhower replied that as much as he would like to play bridge, he had to return to the White House at once.

He pointed out that his Secret Service protectors had gotten quite wet in the rain and he knew they wanted to get out of their soaked clothes just as much as he did.

Arthur H. Vandenberg Jr., son of the late Michigan senator, was a recent White House visitor. During the 1952 campaign, Vandenberg was slated for an important post in the Eisenhower staff, but he did not join the new administration because of reasons of health.

In the summer of 1953 a uranium rush started in Canada's Blind River district east of Sault Ste. Marie. Within a few weeks 10,000 claims were staked.

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Asparagus 35c

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Pickles 39c

H&D—Sliced—No. 2 can
Pineapple 29c

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