

Colonel Walton Chief of Staff WCAF Center

Santa Ana, May 12—Colonel Leo A. Walton, with more than 30 years of military experience behind him, was named today as chief of staff of the west coast air force training center. The announcement was made by Major General Ralph P. Cousins, commanding general of the WCAF Center.

Colonel Walton, who until this appointment was commanding officer of the air force advanced flying school at Stockton field, Calif., was born in Salem, Ore., October 7, 1890.

Entering West Point in 1911 at the age of 20, Colonel Walton was graduated in 1915 and commissioned a second lieutenant in the cavalry. He transferred to the aviation section, signal corps, in 1916, receiving his wings in July, 1917 at Rockwell field.

He attended and was graduated from such military schools as Air Service Field Officers' school, 1921; Air Service Engineering school, 1924, and the Command and General Staff school, 1938. He was also attached to the office of chief of air corps, Washington, D.C., for some time.

Following his graduation from Rockwell field, he served at Kelly field, Brooks field, Langley field, March field, Maxwell field, Dayton, O., and Moffett field. He also served in the Philippine Islands and at Fort Leavenworth.

In August, 1940, he took over the commanding officer's duties at Stockton field and served in that capacity for a period of about one and a half years, during which time the field was constructed, organized, and put into full operation.

Colonel Walton is married and has two children. A daughter, Peggy, 18, is a student at the University of California, at Berkeley; while his son, Spencer, 21, attends Georgia Institute of Technology.

St. Paul

Soldiers Home on Short Furlough; Manages Entertainment with Dinner Party

Private Frank McNamee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McNamee and Private George Hiller, who have been stationed at Camp Roberts, Calif., until two weeks ago when they were transferred to Ft. Lewis, Wash., spent Saturday and Sunday at their respective homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Merten, Jr., of Portland spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Merten, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Stupfel had as their Sunday dinner guests, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Stupfel, George, Carol and June Stupfel, Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Woods and son, Vincent, all of Salem.

Dinner guests' mother's day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Manegre and family were Mrs. Manegre's sisters and families, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Dozler and children La Veta and Allen of Stayton, and Mr. and Mrs. John Kehoe and daughter, Judith Ann of Portland.

Miss Dorothy Faber, who is employed in Seattle spent the last week visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Agnes Faber.

Splash Pool Benefit Slated at Silverton

Silverton—The Silverton PTA will sponsor a program by all three schools in the local system at the Eugene Field auditorium Friday evening, with the proceeds to be applied on the swimming pool funds for maintenance during the coming summer.

The senior high schools will be responsible for the musical numbers; the junior high department will put on two short plays, "Thelma Goes Psychic," and "The Good Angel." A patriotic pageant, "God Bless America," is planned by the Eugene Field grades.

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Horse and Wagon Again for Boston Newspaper—The Record, American and Sunday Advertiser, Boston newspapers, in anticipation of a tire and gasoline shortage for delivery trucks, go back to the horse and wagon for newspaper deliveries and a few of the wagons line up in the south end before starting out for the day. — Associated Press Photo.

Britain Ready to Rain Deadly Gas on Nazis

By Drew Middleton

London, May 12 (AP)—Observers who have seen some of the preparations in the last three years believe a British gas offensive on a scale undreamed of in the first World war will be the country's swift and terrible answer if Germany resorts to that weapon in a desperate bid for victory in Russia.

Italians Lose Axis Confidence

Lisbon, May 11 (AP)—United States and South American diplomats arriving from Italy said today the majority of Italians have no confidence any more that the axis will win the war.

The Germans, they said, still cling to hope that they will win—but they don't know how. The diplomats expressed belief that Germany was extremely worried over the results of the Russian campaign.

"But something else worries them even more and that is the possibility of an allied landing in Europe," one diplomat said. "One may say that the danger of a second front in Europe is the talk of entire Germany."

The first repatriation train brought 38 Americans, 14 Guatemalans, 10 Cubans and 19 Mexicans, representing consular and diplomatic personnel from Italy and Greece.

Cut Ordered in Grinding Navy Beans

Washington, May 12 (AP)—The war production board Monday ordered a 30 per cent reduction in the grinding of cocoa beans, source of the chocolate used in breakfast cocoa, chocolate and soda fountain syrup.

The action, which does not regulate deliveries of cocoa products to consumers or industrial users, is effective upon the grinders and pressure of cocoa beans immediately.

It was necessitated, WPB said, by the shortage of shipping space which resulted in imports during the first three months of 1942 equal to only 34 per cent of consumption.

The 30 per cent cut will remain in effect until the end of June, and the percentage for the next three months will depend upon the "supply prospects for that period," WPB stated.

Britain's ministry of supply is urging Britons to save 5,000,000 old phonograph records a year so the discs may be converted into shellac substitute, useful in war materials.

Portland Ways Get 42 More Liberty Ships

Washington, May 11 (AP)—The Maritime Commission today awarded the Oregon Shipbuilding Corp., Portland, Ore., a contract for 42 Liberty freighters, making a total of 173 emergency cargo vessels ordered from the yard.

Three of the ships covered in the new contract are to be delivered in 1942, and the other 39 in 1943.

The commission said that "the speed and efficiency with which this west coast organization has been turning out ships to meet America's war needs has made it possible to place additional contracts for construction with existing facilities."

Production at the Oregon yard was reported well ahead of schedule. The yard through April 30 had launched 31 maritime commission ships and delivered 23 for service. It recently was awarded the maritime "M" for the best progress in Liberty ship construction the first quarter of this year.

The Oregon yard has built and delivered for service two Liberty freighters in 88 days each. Henry J. Kaiser, operator of the yard, last week reported to the war production board that another of his yards had completed a British ship with specifications similar to the Liberty freighter in 78 days. He said his yard soon would be turning out Liberty ships in even a shorter period.

In addition to the spraying method, it is believed that numbers of small bombs filled with choking gas, such as phosgene, would be used.

The enormous expansion of the RAF has extended the gas target area to the very rail centers and depots from which German men and supplies are dispatched to the Russian theater.

The fighting services and home security department have built up Europe's most complete protection against enemy gas. Millions of gas masks have been doled out to Britons.

Squads in each battalion of the British army train the soldiers in the use of gas masks, capes, anti-gas ointments and eye shields.

Gas schools have been instituted for the fighting services. Troops on maneuvers are sprayed with a mixture simulating mustard gas from aircraft out of sight. "Gas batteries" have hurled tons of bomb-like gas containers against maneuvering infantry and tanks.

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Dr. R. L. Ditmars Zoo Curator Dies in Hospital

New York, May 12 (AP)—Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars, the man who popularized the lowly snake so that the public could face one without flinching, died today. The curator of reptiles at the Bronx zoo had been ill in St. Luke's hospital for three months.

He spent most of his 65 years befriending the snake and chasing superstition out of his garden of reptiles. If he wasn't up at the zoo explaining what was new in the animal kingdom he was probably off in South America chasing down a Bushmaster.

Dr. Ditmars eschewed showmanship, but the very nature of his life work resulted in some amazing moments. In March, 1931, he was confronted with the problem of transferring a 14-foot king cobra, largest of poisonous snakes, to the national zoo at Washington. He finally solved the matter by taking a Pullman berth for himself and cobra—and delivering his quarry in person.

He obtained great satisfaction in brushing off the incredulous tales with which the public showered him. Examples:

He denied as "absolutely impossible" the alleged existence for 31 years of a horned toad sealed in a courthouse cornerstone once reported from Texas.

He labeled the rattlesnake's poison as "paralyzing, not necessarily killing."

And he warned people against a North Carolina preacher who said he let a rattler bite him so that he could be cured by faith.

"More likely a good constitution," Dr. Ditmars said dryly.

Final Examination Given First Aiders

St. Paul—The Red Cross First Aid class at St. Paul took final examinations under the supervision of Mrs. H. Gordon Black, chairman Red Cross First Aid committee, Marion county chapter of American Red Cross.

Those passing the examinations and completing the course successfully are:

Dorothy Bernard, Rose Coleman, Elizabeth Davidson, Harold Geelan, Jean Hawkins, Amanda Hooper, Mary Hughes, Katherine Kerr, Louise Maniere, Mrs. E. S. Mullin, Sr., Wauline Nelson, Helen Smith, Estelle Wolf, Mary Bunnings, Clara David, Nellie Perschweiler, Loretta Gooding, Tommy Hawkins, Gertrude Hodge, Lillie Johnson, Bitter M. Lacy, Betty Maniere, Trease Mullen, Mrs. Carl J. Smith, Marcelle Van Driesche and Phillip Wolf.

Three year standard Red Cross first aid cards will be sent to these individuals within a few weeks.



Dale Shepherd, Salem, who was recently awarded a pilot's wings of the Royal Canadian air force. Shepherd, a graduate of Salem high school of 1939, later an employee of the First National bank, went into the armed services of this country with the Oregon national guard. He transferred to Canada and recently graduated from a training station at Macleod, Alberta. He attended ground school at Vancouver, B.C. Shepherd is the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Mills.

Ammunition Fund Boosted By Dance

Dallas—A capacity crowd danced to the music of Boots Grant's Crystal Gardens orchestra at the benefit dance given at the Dallas armory, Fri-

day night. The dance, sponsored by local organizations working with members of the two Dallas State Guard companies and the Pope-Talbot Engineer's Reserves was staged for the purpose of raising ammunition funds for the rifle companies and the engineer's group.

Committees in charge of ticket sales reported practically 100 per cent response to all sales solicitations. Funds, outside of the orchestra costs, will be used entirely for ammunition. Company members are furnishing their own rifles and other equipment.

Birthdays Celebrated

Silverton—Miss Thelma Olsen of Portland was at the Silverton home of her parents, the Elmer Olsens, for the week-end. The family drove to Portland Monday evening for a smorgasbord supper in celebrating the 21st birthday anniversary of Miss Olsen.



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