

Capital Journal

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Still Unexplained

Secretary of War Stimson's elaborate explanation of the incident over Catania, Sicily, last July in which 19 American planes and their 44 occupants were shot down by "friendly" fire still leaves much to be explained to the satisfaction of the home folks.

For the most part the people are willing to accept the word of Stimson or any other qualified authority that the incident was unavoidable, one of the unpredictable hazards of the highly complicated tactics of combined operations in modern warfare. But many of them are not satisfied with the reasons given by the secretary for keeping news of the loss secret for nine months—and then admitting it only after a Washington newspaper columnist had dug up the facts from unofficial sources and exposed them.

Nor does the fact that a similar incident over Gela, Sicily, two days earlier, in which 23 American transports and 410 men were shot down, was only recently brought to light in the same unofficial manner add anything to the wavering confidence of the public in the accuracy and frankness of the official war information being given out.

There is a growing feeling that the whole story is not being told; that more than is justified by reasons of military security is being held back.

Stimson's statement that "all operations in the vicinity of Catania were under British command and it is not our custom to report their operations any more than it would be for them to report ours" may suffice as an explanation for not revealing the details of the action in which the planes were shot down. But it does not answer the question as to why not even the bare fact of the loss of 33 planes carrying 454 American fighting men was ever officially reported. The secretary attempts to dodge a direct reply to that query in these words:

"... A dozen different reasons contributed to the losses, ranging all the way from unexpected enemy action during the hazards of the complicated air, sea and ground operation at night, to the tenseness of thousands of men under enemy fire for the first time. It is impossible to give a complete explanation of all of these contributing factors without, as I have said, giving the enemy a blueprint of our methods of conducting such an offensive."

That still does not enlighten us as to why the losses were not reported for nine months, and leads us to suspect that other disagreeable news concerning American troops perhaps is being suppressed out of consideration for the British or for other reasons.

Revolt Against Our School System

In an address on the 76th anniversary of the University of California, its president, Dr. Robert G. Sproule, called for a post-war end of "so-called progressive education," whose "helpless victims," the students, were described as sufferers from "all manner of educational dyspepsia and malnutrition." He declared the movement has "run its course" and after the war, it appeared certain that "the long-time interests of the race" would receive some protection against "the devastation of rampant adolescents and sub-adolescents." He warned that "catastrophe" lies ahead unless American education returns to "fundamentals" in "the disciplined education of our students."

Dr. Sproule traced the change of the educational system to the leadership of President Eliot of Harvard university. About 50 years ago, he stated, higher education swung over almost completely to the free election system, and primary and secondary education transferred control of the schools in large part from the teachers to the pupils. He continued:

"Students of all ages were encouraged to follow their highly efficient noses into snap courses and vocational courses, into courses that came in the afternoon and thus permitted long morning naps, or into courses that came in the morning and left the afternoon free for play. Faculties, and particularly departments, without any control by competent educational dictators, were encouraged to multiply the fishes on the steam table of the educational cafeteria. No wonder the helpless victims suffered all manner of educational dyspepsia and malnutrition."

Dr. Eliot may have started the craze but it has been industriously extended and enlarged by the Teachers College of Columbia university which has created a nation-wide teacher machine to promote the cause and the result is apparent in the insufficient grounding in essentials of our graduates. The disciplined mind, related to a purpose, major objective of education, has been lost sight of in the undisciplined curriculum.

Dr. Sproule states that the University of California has already abandoned the free election system in principle—and it is to be hoped higher educational institutions generally follow the lead and return to sanity.

Unity of War Command

There is considerable demand in congress and elsewhere for reorganization of all armed services to attain complete unity of command, instead of improvising after the war materializes, as is being forced now. It would eliminate friction between the branches and make for efficiency and harmony. And it would be easier to accomplish in wartime than in peace time.

This problem of unity of command was outlined by the late General Giulio Douhet of Italy, who has been called the "Mahan of air power" in his prophetic book "The Command of the Air," written in 1928. He ranks along with the late "Billy" Mitchell in foreseeing the upheaval in military organization brought about by the advent of air power. He said:

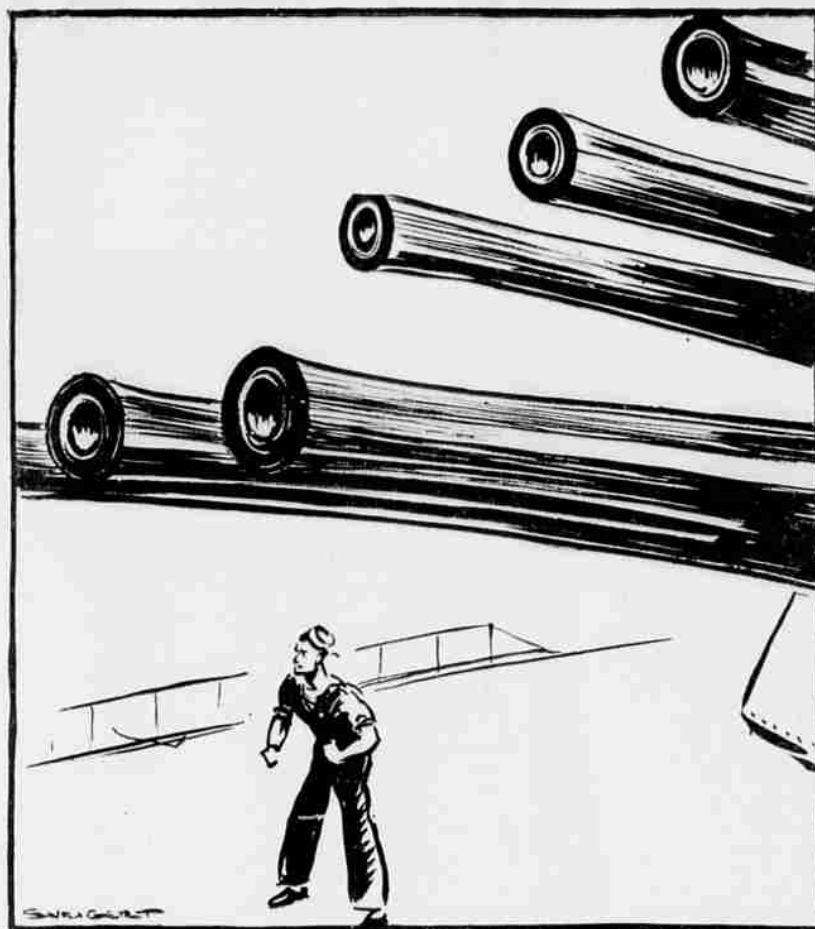
"The army student will deal essentially with the army; the navy student will deal with the navy; the aeronautical student with the aerial forces; and when they deal with war in general, each emphasizes the part which is of more interest to the armed force to which he belongs. There are army experts, navy experts and aerial experts; but there are no war experts. And war is indivisible, and so is its purpose. . . . The new war doctrine should of course be based on the combined employment of the armed forces. In wartime the man who directs this combined employment shall consider all the armed forces as parts of a single whole directed toward a single aim."

Douhet (1869-1930) was treated in Italy much as Mitchell was in America by the army and naval brass hats. He was committed to prison by a military tribunal in 1916 for critical analysis of operations of war, which were justified by the debacle at Caporetto. He was recalled to the army in 1918 to head the central direction of aviation and in 1921 promoted to general. He advocated the establishment of an independent air unit having autonomy equal to that of army and navy and is credited with the first expounding of the Blitzkrieg, later utilized by Germany.

Stoll Says Oregon Can't Spare Men

Portland, April 21 (AP)—L. C. Stoll, state manpower director, said today that Oregon cannot spare men for outside projects

and maintain its own vital production schedules. His statement came in response to queries regarding the war production board's call for workers at a Pasco, Wash., war project.



The Secret Weapon Our Enemy Fears

Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Note that drunken driving charges continue to pop up occasionally in the courts. This is a combination which must make a heavy drain on a couple of ration cards.

Well, boys and girls, reports are that the spinach crop around here will be a good one this year if it can catch up with

the weeds. So you won't have to go without your favorite dish.

Hunt Clark, circulation man for our contemporary, has shed lustre on newspaperdom in general by becoming the daddy of twin girls today, the little ladies weighing 5 lbs. and 15 oz., and 6 lbs., respectively. But here is the payoff. Last night Hunt called up his friend Don Hendrie and advised him that he, Hunt, expected to be the father of another boy by morning. "O yea," jeered Don, "I bet it will be twin girls." And Don was doing as much strutting today about his prophecy as Hunt was for the girls—if possible.

But Hunt, while you are rejoicing in this achievement, let us reprint the following little item from the Independence Enterprise and maybe it will give you another glimpse into your future: "C. F. Hotchkiss was able to be about again this week after recovering from the flu. He tells us that on May 29 he will have reached the age of 88 years. Hotchkiss boasts of having 25 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren and prospects for more."

Visitor at the sanatorium this a.m. was Ralph Seastone who is on furlough, guests of his parents. Ralph is a ship's cook in the navy. We didn't venture to ask his weight but he's a living indication that a ship's cook has ample opportunity to get at the grub. At any rate, we're glad he didn't try to sit on our desk. Boys, join the navy and the world can see you.

"Three candidates have braved the elements and dropped into Gervais the past week to get acquainted. It will do them no harm for having done so whether they called at the Star or not," says the Gervais Star. Yes, may we remark, they all had ads in this week's issue of the Star.

However, complaints are coming in from all over the county that the candidates are very sparse this year and cigars are lacking. It's tough enough now for a candidate to find a cigar to smoke for himself, let alone passing 'em around.

Wholesale

Phoenix City, Ala.—Using a stick with chewing gum, hook, or other device, someone reached in and pulled through the bars of the courthouse vault here ration coupons worth 40,000 pounds of sugar and 30,000 gallons of gasoline.

Cause for Alarm

Chicago—Excited tenants milled outdoors waiting for an explosion while Theodore Reich stood in the apartment basement with a hand grenade he had discovered there. They wouldn't let him come out.

Finally, Reich escaped through an unwatched door, called police. The weapon was soaked, a detective pulled out the pin, the crowd drew back and waited. There was no explosion. The grenade was of the 1918 variety.

Reich invited everybody to his apartment for coffee.

HEAD COLD GETS THE AIR
2 drops in each nostril open cold-clogged nose, you breathe free quickly. Caution: Use only as directed. Demand PENETRO NOSE DROPS

Serving Uncle Sam

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Obershan of West Salem, that their son, Howard C. Obershan, S. 2/c, is stationed at Norman, Okla., to attend aviation machinist school. His wife, formerly Emyl Kipple, has arrived there.

Douglas Rappe, finished at boot camp, is home on a 15-day leave. With him is his buddy, Donald Galyen of North Dakota. They will report back to Farragut to a going out unit on April 27. Douglas' cousin, Wilbur Rappe, spent a 30-day furlough at home this month leaving April 19 for San Francisco. He was at Pearl Harbor on December 7 and had been there until the first of this year.

West Salem—Lt. Verlin Combs of the army air corps arrived Monday to spend a 15-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Combs. Lt. Combs was commissioned and received his wings April 15 at the Pecos, Texas, army air field following completion of his twin engine advanced training. The young officer enlisted in December, 1942, but was not assigned to training until February 26, 1943, when he was sent to the Fresno, Calif., reception center from where he was transferred to the 1314 C.T.D., Ellensburg, Wash., for academic training. He later continued his academic training at the Santa Ana, Calif., army air base until assigned in October, 1943, to the Cal-Aero Flight Academy, Ontario, Calif., for basic and primary flight training. His advanced training was begun early this year at the Pecos field. In civilian life Lt. Combs was connected with the Beutler-Quistad Lumber company.

Mr. and Mrs. Combs have two other sons in the service, John Combs, machinist mate 2/c, stationed since last October in North Africa with a naval unit; and Merle Combs, who has passed his qualification tests for the army air corps and awaits assignment to training in June.

Pratum—Pvt. Wilber Pickens who finished his training as radio operator in Illinois, was a visitor at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Christina Krebbel, recently. Pvt. Pickens has gone to Seattle to take his flying training.

Wheatland—Harlan Cooper of the navy came Tuesday evening and will return Thursday after a two days' leave spent with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Rooper at Wheatland. And com-

The War Today

By DeWitt Mackenzie

An interpretative analysis of war developments by a famous Associated Press war correspondent.

There has been widespread acceptance of the startling thesis that Russia will emerge from the war as dominant power of the eastern hemisphere, and concrete evidence in support of this idea is accumulating as we enter the fall stages of the conflict.

One indication of the trend is the manner in which numerous European countries are orienting their policies, in greater or less degree, towards Moscow. This is particularly noticeable in eastern and southeastern Europe, but it's by no means confined to that zone, for we find France—as represented by the committee of national liberation and General De Gaulle in Algiers—going out of its way to make overtures to Russia.

Dr. Benes Quoted

A notable example of this tendency is provided by doughty little Czechoslovakian—early sacrifice on the altar of Hitlerian appeasement. One of the milestones in this trend was the signing of a pact of mutual assistance and post-war cooperation between the soviet and Czechoslovakia last December. Then in February President Eduard Benes announced that Moscow and his country were working for a Slav alliance, including Poland, to secure peace in eastern Europe.

Pursuant to that we have an article by Dr. Benes in the May issue of Free World magazine in which he emphasizes the need of Slavic solidarity as a barrier against the nazi and fascist forces of reaction. The doctor is one of the world's distinguished statesmen and so merits attention when he says:

"I look on this war as an historic action to put a final stop to the pan-German drang nach osten (drive to the east). This war has been a vivid demonstration that there must be friendly and loyal collaboration among Poland, Czechoslovakia and soviet Russia."

All Slaves Involved

Dr. Benes maintains that "the future of the Slav countries is indissolubly linked to a fight for freedom on behalf of all Slavic peoples." He explains he doesn't mean that the Slaves should form a solid bloc, since a bloc excluding all other peoples would threaten them and would constitute a new power in Europe.

Indirect emphasis was added to this article yesterday on the arrival of Jan Masaryk, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Czechoslovakia, in New York from England. He declared his country trusts the soviet union implicitly regarding future relations between the two.

Of course, Dr. Benes' declaration doesn't indicate weakening of the friendship among Czechoslovakia, America and Britain. Indeed, it may fit the truism that world peace depends on cooperation among the big three—America, Britain and Russia. However, the orientation towards Moscow is evident and it will be surprising if, among others, Poland, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Finland and Romania don't follow suit in due course.

plimenting him Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Moyer and Mrs. Dowd Cooper and her four months old daughter of La Grande came to the same home. Mrs. Moyer is his sister and Mrs. Dowd Cooper is the wife of Lt. Dowd Cooper, an army air flight officer in the New Guinea war zone. Harlan and Dowd are brothers.

Chandler Fowler of navy of Seattle has returned after a recent leave spent with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Fowler at Wheatland. He is an over-seas serviceman of more than a year in the Pacific war zone.

Falls City—Cpl. Wilma Wallace, Wac, has left to report back to service in Missouri after a short furlough with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Wallace.

Lebanon—Lt. Lawrence Schmidt has returned to Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma, after spending a nine-day furlough at

home visiting friends and relatives. Lt. Schmidt has been stationed at Will Rogers field for the past two months training to be a photo reconnaissance pilot. He has finished his training and is now ready for overseas duty.

Quincy—Eldon Beckner, S. 2/c, has returned to Farragut, Ida., after spending a 15-day furlough at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. Beckner. Another son of the Beckners, Pvt. Lawrence Beckner, is now a student at the aviation machinist and gunnery school at the army air base in Amarillo, Tex.

Albany—Mrs. R. C. Draper, North Albany, has received word from her son, Pfc. Edgar Draper, that he is recovering in a hospital somewhere in the south Pacific from a wound which, though minor, was received in action and entitled him to the purple heart. Mrs. Draper also stated her son is also due to receive the oak leaf cluster in recognition of his service in the capture of Japanese-held islands in the Admiralty group, taken by the 12th cavalry with the aid of the navy seabees. Pvt. Draper joined the army when he was graduated from Albany high school in 1942. Three other Draper boys and the father are in the service. The father is in the navy and has recently been assigned to a newly commissioned warship.

Amity—Sverra Jensen, who is in the U.S. service stationed at San Diego, is spending a short furlough here at his home with Mrs. Jensen and their young daughter, Catherine.

Mill City—Beauford Flatman, gun pointer first class of the U. S. navy, left this week after a 17-day leave spent with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Flatman. Seaman Flatman, who has been stationed for the past 19 months at the naval air station in Corpus Christi, Texas, has six months more training before graduation. He will then be rated as gunner instead of gun pointer. The Dewey Flatmans have another son in the navy, Motor Machinist First Class Donald Flatman, who is on the high seas. He has been in the service 17 months. He was home on leave a year ago last month.

PPC William Del Briant of the army air corps, is spending a 10-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Pickett. He is stationed at Chenutte field, Illinois.

Scotts Mills—Gerald Molan, USN, having completed a course in navy schooling at San Diego, is spending a short leave at the H. C. Jackson home. Mrs. Jackson is his mother.

Salem Heights—George Skelton of the U. S. navy spent several days in Salem Heights last week, visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Skelton. He has seen considerable action in the Pacific.

Mill City—Beauford L. Flatman, S. 1/c, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Flatman, from Cabaniss field, Corpus Christi, Texas, spent the past week with his parents and sister. Flatman has a gun pointer's rating. He was a guest of his grandfather, Lee Berry, of Idanha, also his aunt and cousins of Mill City. He spent Tuesday evening in Salem with his parents and other relatives and friends. Beauford's brother, Donald, is overseas in the navy.

Silverton—Lt. Jim Ekman, who finished his course at Luke field during the past week, is with his parents, the E. R. Ekman, for a 15-day furlough after which he will return to Luke field for assignment.

Silverton—Mrs. Helen M. Wrightman returned Monday from a fortnight's stay in Portland with relatives and friends, making the trip especially to be with her nephew, Ensign L. Rodney Johnson, who left by plane Monday night for his new submarine base at Portsmouth, N. H., following a ten-day furlough at the Portland home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Johnson, formerly of Silverton. Ensign Johnson had recently completed his under-seas training course at New London, Conn., and expects to be detailed at Portsmouth base during the finals on a submarine job from where he will be assigned. Mrs. Wrightman and her sister-in-law, Mrs. Lewis Johnson,

drove to Oswego for a day's visit at the T. P. Risteigen home with Mrs. Risteigen's mother and sister, Mrs. Oscar Broten and Mrs. Cora Graden, both of Silverton.

Mrs. Broten is recuperating from an injury to her shoulder sustained in a fall at her home.

Lebanon—The Purple Heart medal and certificate of the award have just been received by Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Forbis in honor of their son, Second Lt. Truman F. Forbis, who was killed in action while on a flying mission over Italy.

The following letter was received this week by Mr. and Mrs. Forbis from a friend of Truman, Edward J. Tracey, which gives the details in which the young officer lost his life.

"I am writing this letter as a friend of Truman to let you know the situation in which you lost your son and in which the squadron lost a good and well-liked man.

"It was on his 38th mission, which was a low-level strafing mission. He had destroyed some trucks and what not and, according to the others on the mission it was presumed he was hit by gunfire from the ground and was seen to crash. Up to that time, Truman had seen much action and always did his duty as well as anyone. He had been on missions which encountered enemy aircraft many times, which he probably wrote you about.

"The air medal which he was awarded after his ninth mission has been sent to you, also his personal things, which may take some time to reach you. So you know they have been mailed." (His personal effects are now at Kansas City and should arrive shortly, his parents have been informed.)

Albany—Mr. and Mrs. G. McClellan have received word from the war department notifying them that their daughter, Blanche, who has been attached for the last two years, with the aviation branch of the army military intelligence service, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., has been transferred to the war department general staff and has reported for duty at Lisbon, Portugal, where she has been assigned as assistant to the military attache. Miss McClellan is a graduate of Albany high school, and of the University of Oregon, where she received CAA pilot training. Miss McClellan received her master's degree in science at New York university before entering government service.

Mt. Angel—Pvt. Leonard Ficker of Fort Lewis, Wash., surprised his wife and family with a week-end visit at Easter. Private and Mrs. Adrian Polinsky of San Luis Obispo, Calif., announced the arrival of a daughter, Janet Dorene. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Polinsky, and great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Slaby.

William Bean, who has been stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., received an honorable medical discharge and has returned home.

Pfc. Charles Van Bee of Alaska was a dinner guest at the Dehler home recently. He visited at the Benedictine Press where he was formerly employed.

Dr. and Mrs. A. F. E. Schierbaum recently entertained at dinner in compliment to his sister, Mrs. F. C. Saxowsky of Dickinson, N. D., and Sgt. Ray Schief of Camp Adair. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Seeley and family of Salem.

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